FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 1964

VOLUME 10, No. 6 **10th YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

A BRAZILIAN SIGHTING

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Acting Editor:
Charles Bowen

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 10 No. 6 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

1964

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Flying Saucer Review,
c/o David Clackson,
72–78 Fleet Street,
London, E.C.4.
Telephone:
FLEet Street 2626

Contacts

DURING the ten years' life of this REVIEW, one fact, at least, has emerged and now stands proven beyond doubt. It is that the Government of this country (and of others, for that matter) does not tell the truth about flying saucers. Even when the Ministry of Defence is publicly challenged on this score it fails to justify the absurd explanations it offers for many of the best authenticated sightings of recent years, explanations that are even more lunatic than the worst of the crackpots, fanatics and exhibitionists who have plagued our subject. Nearly everything the Ministry of Defence—and particularly that section of it known as the Air Ministry—has said about flying saucers is not only bogus but can be proved to be bogus.

Why does our Government not tell us the truth? Or would it be better to ask, why does it prevent us from reaching the truth on our own? The usual reply, which has become almost a cliché, is that we would panic; Orson Welles and *The War of the Worlds* are cited as an awful example of what could happen if we were told that Mars is inhabited and that its pilots are actually visiting us. But is that really the reason? It is difficult to believe that the inhabitants of this world, after years of talk about saucers, satellites and space travel, would behave, in the face of truth, in the wild manner of those listeners to the famous broadcast, and go berserk, start looting and bring red ruin to us all.

We know the truth is being withheld, but this REVIEW does not know precisely why. We do not think that the reason is necessarily simple, nor do we believe that there is no possible justification for this silence. It is possible that the truth is so incredible that no government could hope to be believed if it were to release the facts in its possession. A Government that is not believed soon ceases to be a government.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW can, perhaps, understand the government's point of view. It faces, we believe, the same sort of dilemma as we do. From time to time, contact stories of a most circumstantial nature continue to reach us. So far we have felt unable to print them in full because either final corroboration has—for good reason or for bad—been lacking and to print without supporting testimony might have hurt our reputation. This lack of confirmation has been variously ascribed to the Official Secrets Act or to the expressed wish or even command of those alleged to have been visiting us. We can, of course, admit that these explanations could just as well have been the devious excuses of the hoaxer or the self-deluded. However, in all fairness it should be said that more than one of these witnesses have impressed us most favourably. In any normal commerce with such people we would unhesitatingly have accepted their word. They have

certainly not been bad witnesses like Adamski, nor have they shown any signs of instability. Apart from the inevitable variations in the circumstantial details in each story, the accounts have been remarkably consistent. As Jacques Vallée in our first two issues for 1964 listed the appearance of "oddities" in order to discover a common denominator, we now list the "humans" for the same purpose. We can claim a much more remarkable link between the stories of contacts with "humans" who, it is alleged, have landed on this earth:

1. Although the visitor was human in form, there were certain distinguishing features, such as a quality about the hair or the eyes, etc.

2. In intellect these beings were superior to us. They were pacifist in philosophy, with a technology so far ahead of us that it was practically incomprehensible.

3. All these visitors claim that they or their like have been visiting us for a very long time and that they are actually working amongst us for wholly benevolent motives. They claim that many of our top scientists know of them and their work and that the governments of the world, also, know the truth and the fact of their infiltration.

4. Because they have been visiting us for very many years, they have no difficulty with any of our languages. They can, however, and often do, communicate with us by telepathy.

5. The visitors are anxious that those with whom they are working on this earth should not be identified and they have means of preventing such an accident. On the other hand, they are anxious that the truth should gradually emerge.

Without further evidence, it is impossible to endorse such stories. But if, just for a moment, we were to suspend judgment and accept them without question, much that was obscure becomes clear. The story is, of course, the same as Adamski's in *Flying Saucers Have Landed:* it is a story that has been repeated in much the same form by literally hundreds of other contact claimants from all over the world. If, as one of our readers suggested in our September-October issue, one removes a sectional religious element from the Fátima "miracle", that event also falls neatly into place. And, let it be admitted, 70,000 unanimously agreed witnessses cannot be lightly controverted. Even if one does dismiss the orthodox religious element from this story, the three little children were triumphantly vindicated on one point. The saucer, or the miracle, have it as you will, did occur at the time and the date and the place foretold.

Our speculations are unscientific, we know, but may we not here have a clue as to how life on this earth began? Are we descended, not from apes, but from angels? Are we perhaps the heirs to those who visited us centuries ago? As Charles Darwin becomes increasingly discredited, might we not find more truth among the fundamentalists than among the nineteenth century scientists? Here, too, we may find the answer to those of us who are inclined to complain that nothing final ever happens in the saucer story. Perhaps it has already happened. And is continuing to happen every day of our lives. Does every saucer occupant always return whence he came? For what other reason is this traffic in the skies?

If this be truth, then no government could possibly proclaim it.

It is with very great regret that we inform readers of the death of our editor, WAVENEY GIRVAN, at Winchester on 22nd October, 1964.

He was taken seriously ill early in September, yet characteristically, the Editorial and a number of items for this issue had been prepared well in advance.

Our sympathy is extended to Mrs. Girvan, and to his son Ian, in their bereavement.

TEN YEARS OLD

By Waveney Girvan

IN January 1955, the first issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW appeared under the editorship of Derek Dempster. The edition was a small one and it has subsequently become a collector's item. The issue in which this article appears (November-December, 1964), therefore marks the tenth completed year of publication.

To have survived ten years of publishing in an era of adverse economics and without subsidy or patronage of any sort would normally be regarded as an achievement for a small magazine dealing with any other interest, but as flying saucers are generally believed to lack both existence and significance, the achievement should appear much greater to the sceptic than to the believer. But the REVIEW will not look forward with any confidence to a general acclaim and wishes for a happy birthday. The occasion will no doubt be allowed to pass with customary silence—customary, that is, to all who know the truth about the saucers and who patiently await the day when the subject can be intelligently and fearlessly discussed in the columns of the national press. That day is not yet with us.

A unique publication

The REVIEW can look back upon its particular decade with mixed feelings (one of which, of course, is gratitude born of survival) upon a unique publishing experience. It is impossible to think of any other topic that would have brought a publisher similar problems. To begin with, as officially there is no such subject, strictly speaking the REVIEW should never have been able to start, let alone pass its tenth milestone. Our sceptical friends, bless them, will probably suggest that there are always enough credulous folk about to keep any sort of magazine afloat, but this is not my own experience. There are and have been hundreds of post-war periodicals on a variety of respectable subjects that have either gone under or have depended upon a subsidy for survival—or even have kept going despite their having broken the solvency barrier and through the perhaps unwitting generosity of their creditors. The REVIEW is run on business lines and has managed to remain solvent. Furthermore, several of the periodicals that have foundered have done so despite a large circulation heavily buttressed by advertising revenue. The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has depended for existence entirely upon its readers' support and very little else. I think therefore it does have some claim to general recognition of its achievement in surviving. But its subject, I must not forget, does not exist. And being handsome is no use, if you're wearing an unfashionable hat.

One of the reasons why we have managed to survive is, strangely enough, because we have been small. The REVIEW has never attempted anything beyond its power. For instance, it has never tried to get on to the bookstalls which, in this country, at least, are not geared to the small circulating periodical, a fact I learned the hard way several years before the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW was launched. Attempting to obtain a larger circulation by what appears to be the obvious method has been a potent cause of failure for many a small review.

The sceptics faced with these facts may care to ponder—though I doubt whether they will—on the possibility that perhaps, after all, there is some element of truth in our message that flying saucers do exist and that it is this truth that has carried us from 1955 to 1964. The evidence produced in the REVIEW over the years is surely weighty enough to sink a battleship of doubt. The sceptics might further consider that all our subscribers and contributors are not the credulous fools of their imagining. Our subscribers' list would not encourage them in this misconception. Among the names are many men and women prominent in various walks of life and in their respective trades or professions they are highly regarded, and even famous, and are known as persons of sound judgment and integrity. It is because of their continued support that we are still alive.

A vast potential

It must be admitted that a subject that has, in the past, attracted such ridicule and even hostility has brought difficulties enough. Of worse effect have been the periods of silence in the national press which, in their turn, have caused public indifference. There is a vast potential readership waiting to be tapped as flying saucers become, once again, a topic of general interest and discussion. I have to remind myself of the 1950s when popular Sunday papers ran serials on their front pages and, in particular, the autumn of 1953 when I published *Flying Saucers Have Landed* which became a best-

seller throughout the world and which is still both in print and in demand. Since those days, however, publishing has been mostly an uphill task with occasional gleams of sunshine breaking through. The years 1960, 1961 and 1962 were particularly dark. As far as general interest was concerned, the saucers might as well have disappeared from our skies. While it was true that local reports kept coming in, the public got it into their heads that the subject was indeed nonsensical and that it was nothing more than an out-of-date newspaper stunt. Thanks to the Charlton Crater mystery of 1963, and despite officialdom's attempt (unsuccessful as it happened) to write it off in terms of a meteorite, and other efforts made by exhibitionists to jump on the bandwaggon, the public began to resume an interest in UFOs. The particular issue in which the REIVEW dealt with the Charlton Crater quickly sold out although we had ordered a larger than usual number of copies. This brought in a healthy increase in readership. There is really only one thing that brings us a larger circulation and that is publicity in the press. How can one expect large numbers of new readers if the general public has been brainwashed into believing that saucers do not exist?

Advertising didn't pay

It has been discovered that advertising in the papers just does not pay. The REVIEW, therefore, as I have already mentioned, is almost wholly dependent upon the goodwill and word of mouth recommendation of its existing readers. It would not be out of place here to thank them and to ask them to continue their good and highly appreciated work.

The FLYING SAUCER REVIEW has not, of course, been free of more normal troubles—troubles that are shared with those journals that deal with orthodox subjects. Our whole period of existence has been inflationary and our costs of production have increased year by year. However, in these ten years, we have been forced to increase our prices on only two occasions. In 1959, we had to issue an emergency roneoed edition because of a printers' strike. Otherwise we have appeared regularly and without lapse. 1964 was a particularly difficult year. All printers have been exceptionally busy with electioneering work and this year has seen a splethora of elections, local, by- and general. The small magazine, as a consequence, found it very difficult to appear as promptly as it would have liked. The recent postal strike aggravated the situation and it was not generally realised that in addition to the postal go-slow there was a complete ban on printed paper rate mail which continued for nearly a week even after a general settlement had been reached. Most of our readers have been very indulgent over these delays and that too is greatly appreciated by the small staff at the REVIEW's disposal. Most of it is either voluntary or semi-voluntary and all of it is spare time.

The Future

Perhaps it is appropriate here to state our hopes for the future. Well, our first wish must be that the flying saucers should become so openly accepted that the REVIEW can either attract a very wide readership indeed or even go out of existence because its mission in life will have been achieved. In the immediate future, we would very much like to appear more frequently as a monthly. The only problem here is of time: those who work on the REVIEW, as I have already explained, do so in their spare time only. To give much more would make it practically impossible for them to earn a living in their present full time occupations.

Only two factors hold us back. One is the negative policy of the government leading to a cold-shouldering in the national press and in the other organs which influence public opinion. The other is the saucers themselves. A massive demonstration could, I suppose, put the matter beyond doubt once and for all. I do not mind which happens first. If either happened our readership would multiply and the demand, as ever, would solve the problems of supply. As the REVIEW ends its tenth year of publication I would like to thank you one and all for the support which made it possible.

OBITUARY

OUR FRIEND WAVENEY GIRVAN

Waveney Girvan

IT was just by chance that I met Waveney Girvan. I remember how I had been discussing some small official matter with a colleague, when to my surprise I saw a copy of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW among papers on his desk. Surprise indeed, for that particular gentleman was a sceptic if ever there was one!

When he learned that I had been a regular reader of the REVIEW since 1955, my colleague observed that it was high time I met the editor. My expression must have betrayed that I suspected a leg-pull, for he hastened to add that the editor of the REVIEW had once published a book for him. He was as good as his word: Waveney Girvan accepted his invitation, and we spent two convivial hours discussing every aspect of the flying saucer mystery.

It was a wonderful evening for me, for I had long been an admirer of Waveney's work, particularly after he had taken over as Editor of the REVIEW in 1959. When it was time to go, I was delighted to find that our guest and I had to catch the same train from Waterloo!

That was a few years ago, and since that day we travelled together much of the time . . . until August this year.

Waveney was wonderful company: an extremely intelligent man with a restless, inquiring mind; a man of infinite charm and sparkling wit, yet relentless in the pursuit of truth; a gentle man, not lacking in patience, yet impatient of bumbledom and mediocrity where better could be expected. Many of us would be well satisfied to have achieved any one of the varied accomplishments of this son of a Scottish surgeon. He was a chartered accountant, a distinguished author, a successful publisher, founder and chairman of the West Country Writers' Association, literary executor to the estate of Eden Phillpotts, an inventor, and latterly, a top executive of a great publishing house.

The UFOs caught his imagination even before Arnold's sensational sighting and the advent of the name "Flying saucer" in 1947. There were, after all, the wartime Foo Fighters, and the mystery rockets over Scandinavia in 1946.

For me, the drudgery of London commuting vanished from the time I met Waveney Girvan. Ufology was certainly not our only topic of conversation, but at times it was the most exciting one, and amusing too, when we considered the evasive antics of authority, and the stuffiness of sceptics! Well I remember the "kick" we had from Aimé Michel's letter and article about Vauriat, and the discovery of global orthoteny. I remember too how proud Waveney was of the new-look cover which appeared on the May/June issue of 1963, an issue which he considered one of the best ever—until others even better came along! Perhaps the most exciting time of all was at the height of the Charlton crater affair, which culminated in Waveney's debunking of the "meteorite" brigade, and the exposing of "Dr." Randall. I'll always treasure the memories of those evenings in the train.

Last August it became increasingly apparent that Waveney was a sick man. I thought he was exhausted by the way he had thrown himself wholeheartedly into his work, his other projects, and the editing of the REVIEW (a single-handed marathon for the best part of five years!), but that turned out to be wishful thinking. When I returned from holiday last September, his seat in the train was empty: the journey was strangely quiet and lonely.

For all who knew and loved Waveney Girvan, the world seemed an empty place on the morning of the 22nd October, 1964.

CHARLES BOWEN

THE SOCORRO CLASSIC

The landing at Socorro may prove to be a turning point in the history of UFOs. The *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW* in its July-August and September-October issues printed brief newspaper reports of the incident, but this account, reprinted by kind permission of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) is taken from the July-August issue of its bulletin, the UFO INVESTIGATOR, **and gives a much more detailed survey of this remarkable occurrence.**

PHYSICAL evidence of the UFO seen at close range by New Mexico policeman Lonnie Zamora is in the possession of NICAP and plans are underway to have it analysed by a high-ranking metallurgist in the laboratories of a Government scientific agency in the Washington area.

Metal scrapings, reportedly left by one of the landing gears of the object, were taken from the scene by Ray Stanford, Phoenix, Ariz., a NICAP member authorized to investigate this case. During questioning at the scene, Ptm. Zamora pointed out a rock which he said had been struck by part of the object, leaving traces of metal. Stanford took the rock while Air Force investigators were busy in another part of the site. Other hitherto little known information given to NICAP includes the statement that Zamora heard what sounded to him like a door slamming, between the time he saw two small figures near the UFO and his closest approach, at which time the figures could no longer be seen.

Well attested

Intensive on-the-spot investigations by NICAP and the Air Force have resulted in one basic agreement: That the object seen by a highly reliable witness cannot be explained as any known device or phenomenon. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, chief civilian consultant to the Air Force's Project Bluebook, told the Associated Press after completing his investigation at Socorro, "I am more puzzled now than I was when I arrived here."

The well-publicised incident began shortly before 6 p.m. MST, April 24, when Ptm. Zamora heard what he thought was an explosion, as he was chasing a speeding car about a mile south of Socorro. Thinking it might be a dynamite shack blowing up, he abandoned the chase and hurried to investigate. When he first saw the object, from some 150 yards, he thought it might be an overturned car, but quickly realised the smooth, metallic, oval device with stilt-like landing gears was something unusual.

As he drove toward it, he could see two small figures (later estimated to be about 4½ feet tall) dressed in "white coveralls" standing close to the object. He said both had their backs to him, but that the one farther away turned around and looked right at him. Zamora reported seeing no details (hands, feet, face, etc.) of the figures and assumed they were completely covered by the suits. He said they were the same height as the bottom of the craft which just cleared a bush, measured at 4½ feet.

No details were visible on the machine, but the officer reported seeing what looked like red markings on the side, 1–1½ feet high.

Zamora drove to within about 100 feet, got out and proceeded on foot. When he was about 50 feet from it, the UFO began to roar and spew flame and smoke from its underside. Thinking it was about to blow up, the scared patrolman ran back toward his car. The roaring suddenly stopped and he looked up to see it take off. He later said, "it was so quiet you could hear a pin drop."

The machine rose to about 10 feet and flew down the draw, clearing the 8-foot dynamite shack by about 2 feet. After skimming along for two or three miles, it rose up over a perlite mill and climbed away into the sky.

Radio call

When Zamora first thought he saw an overturned car, he put out a radio call for assistance. The first person to answer his call was State Police Sgt. Sam Chavez, who arrived shortly after the UFO took off. The two officers then proceeded to the landing site.

They found five rectangular depressions in the ground, grouped around the area where the egg-shaped object was, and in the right locations to have been made by the landing gear, according to Zamora. Each was about 12 in. long, ¾ in. wide

and several inches deep, with a wedge-shaped cross-section. Two other depressions—smaller, shallower and rounded—were found near what was the far side of the object, as seen by Zamora.

The officers also saw bushes (snakewood and greasewood) and clumps of grass which appeared to have been seared by a flame. The ground, too, looked as if it had been scorched. Much of the marking, unfortunately, was obliterated by the hundreds of curiosity seekers who flocked to the scene.

The first official investigators arrived: Capt. Richard Holder, White Sands Missile Range, that evening; Maj. William Connor, of Kirtland AFB, Albuquerque, N. Mex., and T/Sgt. David Moody of Project Bluebook, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio on April 26. They took soil samples and checked the area for radiation with a Geiger Counter. On April 29th, Dr. Hynek arrived and spent a day-and-a-half interviewing witnesses, photographing the landing site and checking possible explanations.

Extensive reports

Not until June 8th did the Air Force have an official statment. A two-page summary of the case covered the main points and concluded by saying it was unexplained but still open.

NICAP-Member Stanford was in Socorro while Dr. Hynek was investigating and was with him at the landing scene. There, Stanford took detailed measurements of the reconstructed markings, photographed the area and took the metal scrapings, supposedly from the UFO's landing gear. He sent extensive written and taped reports to NICAP Headquarters, which have been incorporated in this article.

The seriousness with which the Air Force took the Socorro sighting is indicated by some of the remarks attributed to Dr. Hynek by local newspapers and the wire services. ". . . it is one of the soundest, best substantiated reports as far as it goes. Usually one finds many contradictions or omissions in these reports, but Mr. Zamora's story is simply told, certainly without any intent to perpetrate a hoax. The story, of course, was told by a man who obviously was frightened badly by what he did see. He certainly must have seen something."

While the June 8 statement of the Air Force did not specifically rule out any possible explanations, Maj. Maston Jacks, Project Bluebook Pentagon spokesman, said the facts eliminated any chance of it having been a fixed-wing aircraft. When asked if the Air Force was, therefore, still considering that it might have been a rotary-wing craft (e.g., a helicopter), he said this was still being investigated, but was unable to explain how any known machine could have taken off so silently. At last report, the case was still "being investigated".

About 36 hours later, at 12.30 a.m., April 26, there was a reported UFO landing near La Madera, N. Mex., about 100 miles north of Socorro. Orlando Gallegos saw an object resembling a "butane tank", about as long as a telephone pole, about as big around as an automobile and about 14 feet high. The case was investigated by the New Mexico State Police, who confirmed the details to NICAP.

Gallegos told the State Police that the object, estimated to be some 300 feet from his home, seemed to be spewing bluish-white flames from its sides. He thought it was stationary, and said he had watched it for about one minute. Gallegos said the flames suddenly went out, he heard no noise and he saw nothing more of it.

Police Capt. Martin E. Vigil arrived on the scene at 7.30 p.m. that day and talked with Officer Albert Vega, whom he had detailed to stand by until his arrival. "At that time (7.30), the ground was still smouldering and badly scorched," he wrote NICAP. "Officer Vega advised that he had observed four depressions on the ground, one of which was quite clear, the others having been obliterated due to windy weather conditions. Officer Vega stated that this depression was approximately eight-by-twelve inches in size, about three or four inches deep, and sort of 'V' shaped at the bottom." (Note similarity to markings at Socorro.)

"There were also numerous oval shaped, or 'cat-paw-like' markings around the scorched area. These were approximately three and one-half inches in diameter," he added. (Again, note similarity.)

"Upon arrival at the scene, I personally interviewed Mr. Gallegos about his story. He insisted that he had observed this object, and that the reason he had not reported it sooner, was that when he had told his family, they had laughed about it, and that he had figured everyone else would do the same. Mr. Gallegos . . . is obviously not the type of person that would make up such a story."

Dr. Hynek, upon his arrival in Socorro, indicated an interest in the La Madera sighting, but returned to Northwestern University without having looked into it. The Air Force later explained the report as a rubbish fire. The only Air Force representative known to have investigated the report was Maj. Connors, of Kirtland AFB.

Postscript

Copies of NICAP's documentary, *The UFO Evidence*, are available to the general public at $5.00 each. Address: 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., U.S.A.

UFO's and the Sea

By Antonio Ribera

FOR some considerable time I have wondered whether the sea could be a hiding place for UFOs. About three quarters of the surface of Earth is covered by the ocean; the right name for our planet could be Sea instead of Earth. An interplanetary visitor, coming upon our world from outer space, would name it so if he happened to arrive over the hemisphere covered by the vast Pacific Ocean.

Many sightings of UFOs have been reported at sea. Several of them were of objects rising from the sea or falling into it. The story about the Deadly Bermuda Triangle[1] made me think again about this possible relationship between UFOs and the sea, and I went through my files where I unearthed several cards relating strange happenings at sea. This article is an account of my findings in this field.

The Bermuda Triangle Revisited

Let us return to the Deadly Bermuda Triangle. The strange happenings here reported took place in 1947 and 1948, and again in 1949; with them and those reported in the *Argosy* article, the dossier on strange happenings in this area seems complete[2].

In 1947, an American Superfortress bomber mysteriously vanished when 100 miles off Bermuda. Searches by many planes and ships did not solve the mystery, which U.S. Air Force officers blamed onto a tremendous current of rising air in a cumulonimbus cloud, which, they theorised, "disintegrated the great bomber". A similar explanation has been offered for the unsolved disappearance, in March 1950, of the U.S. "Globemaster" flying across the Atlantic to Ireland.

On January 30, 1948, a Tudor airliner, the "Star Tiger" of the British South American Airways, mysteriously vanished while flying some 400 miles off Bermuda. That mystery was never solved, nor was any wreckage found. The "Star Tiger" carried 25 passengers and a crew of six. The court of investigation was baffled and could hint only at "some external cause". Again, on January 18, 1949, a second Tudor airliner of the same company—according to Mr. H. T. Wilkins—the "Star Ariel" with 13 passengers and a crew of seven, vanished 200 miles from Bermuda, on a thousand-mile flight to Kingston, Jamaica. Many planes, naval vessels and merchant ships fanned all over the area, but failed to solve the mystery. No wreckage was ever found; but a singular thing happened. On the first night of the search for the missing British Tudor IV, "Star Ariel" liner, two planes—one of them a U.S. bomber, and the other a British airliner of the BOAC line—independently reported seeing a strange light on the ocean in the area where the "Star Ariel" vanished. No raft was found, nor float with any light attached which might have been launched from the lost airliner. No wreckage of any sort has ever been reported.

What is the hoodoo in the Bermuda skies and waters? On the night of February 9, 1913, a procession of strange lights was seen in the skies in Canada (Saskatchewan and Ontario), the U.S.A. (New York), at sea, and over Bermuda. . . . One witness said that "it looked like an express train lighted at night . . ." And with this, no more about Bermuda . . . for the time being.

Forteana

And now I would like to examine under this heading some of the "damned events" gathered by the amazing Charles Fort[3].

On June 18, 1845, according to the *Malta Times*, from the brig *Victoria*, about 900 miles east of Adalia, Near East, three luminous bodies were seen to issue from the sea, at about half a mile from the vessel. They were visible for about ten minutes. Other witnesses in Adalia and in Syria and Malta also saw the "phenomenon". The luminous bodies were apparently five times the size of the moon: each had appendages which connected them (similar sightings were reported by Aimé Michel during the 1954 wave in France).

On March 22, 1870, in the Atlantic Ocean near the Equator, the sailors of the British barque *Lady of the Lake* saw a remarkable object, or "cloud", in the sky. It was a saucer-like cloud, with a long appendage at the rear, and it travelled against the wind. This form was visible for an hour, says the log of the ship, written by Capt. F. W. Banner.

On December 5, 1872, the British ship *Dei Gratia* found a vessel, between the Azores and Lisbon, which turned out to be the American brigantine *Mary Celeste*. The story of the *Mary*

Celeste, first reported by the London *Times* of February 14, 1873, is so well-known, that I am not going to recount it in full. This abandoned but intact vessel, alone in the middle of the ocean, with her lifeboats in their places, everything on board in order, is still an unexplained mystery.

Equally a mystery is the abandoned *Rosalie*, a large French ship, bound from Hamburg to Havana . . . most of the sails set . . . no leak . . . a valuable cargo on board. There was a half-starved canary in a cage.

At midnight, on February 24, 1885, somewhere between Yokohama and Victoria, the captain of the barque *Innerwich*, Fort says, was aroused by his mate, who had seen something unusual in the sky. The captain went on deck and saw the sky turning fiery red. "All at once, a large mass of fire appeared over the vessel, completely blinding the spectators". The fiery mass fell into the sea. Its size may be judged by the volume of water cast up by it. It is said to have rushed toward the vessel with a noise that was "deafening". The master, an old, experienced mariner, declared that "the awfulness of the sight was beyond description".

But the contrary is also true: unknown objects not falling into the sea, but rising from it. On November 12, 1887, the British steamer *Siberian* saw an object, described as "a large ball of fire", rising from the sea, near Cape Race. It rose to a height of 50 feet, and then advanced close to the ship, then moved away, remaining visible for about five minutes (for details see the American *Meteorological Journal*, 6–443). Captain Moore, skipper of the *Siberian*, said that at about the same place he had seen such appearances before. An underwater base for UFOs? We shall discuss this possibility later.

Commander Pringle's experience

On May 15, 1879, Commander J. E. Pringle, of H.M.S. *Vulture*, in the Persian Gulf, had noticed luminous waves or pulsations in the water, moving at great speed, and passing under the *Vulture*. On looking toward the east, the appearance was that of a revolving wheel with a centre on that bearing. The spokes were illuminated, and, looking towards the west, a similar wheel appeared to be revolving, but in the opposite direction. He adds: "These waves of light extended from the surface well under the water". Before and after this display the ship had passed through patches of floating substance described as "oily-looking fish spawn". (There was a similar happening on January 8, 1960, when the British ship *Corinthio*, bound from London to Wellington, went through a mysterious floating substance. It was honey-coloured and silky.

Did the "solitary navigator", Mr. Adrian Hayter[4], know about the amazing experience of Commander J. E. Pringle, when he wrote the following account in his book?: ". . . We noticed a light far out to the south-east—they were between Assab and Djibuti, Red Sea. As we watched it grew more vivid and was seen to be sweeping towards us; it seemed like the beams of a very powerful lighthouse, pivoted in the south, and sweeping from one horizon to the other—but under the water. It rapidly came closer, relentless and inexplicable, until it lit up the sails with a greenish light quite bright enough to read by. I watched the defined beam as it passed under the *Sheila*, throwing the dark shadow of her hull momentarily over the sails, and then it fled to the western horizon. It left us speechless, but another great beam appeared in the east, swung towards us, underneath us, and silently fled into the western darkness. This happened about five times, always the same, at the same regular intervals, in complete silence and with no change in the wind or sea . . ."

Underwater Bases

What is lurking in the depths of the Red Sea–Persian Gulf, which can send these powerful beams across the ocean expanses? An honest, straightforward writer, Hayter was not "imagining things" when he wrote this. This eerie sighting seems to belong to some fantastic tale, to some strange Science-Fiction story. But it is factual; these things actually happen in our world.

I suggest these probable places: the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea, somewhere in the Bermuda Triangle and somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean, probably off Cape Race. In all these places strange happenings and sightings have been recorded. But probably there are many more underwater bases, undetected so far. The vast extent of our oceans provide ideal hiding places for interplanetary visitors, assuming that their ships can navigate as easily through the hydrosphere as they can the atmosphere. It is only a question of different densities.

Lack of space prevents mention of all the Persian Gulf sightings recorded by Charles Fort. But I cannot resist quoting this one: In May, 1880, on a dark night, there suddenly appeared on each side of the British steamer *Patna*, while on a voyage up the Persian Gulf, an enormous luminous wheel, whirling around, the spokes of which seemed to brush the ship along. The spokes would be 200 or 300 yards long (a sighting similar to the phenomenon seen by Hayter).

On July 26, 1964, shortly before midnight, the Santa Cruz de Tenerife wireless station received a mysterious SOS from a ship. No name or position

was specified in the message. Another Mayday had been received half an hour before. At 10.45 a.m. of the following day, the trawler *Santa Genoveva*, some miles north of Cape Bojador, Africa, found the bodies of seven men, all with their life-jackets on and with no apparent injuries. They were identified. They belonged to the crew of the Spanish lobster ship *Maena*. Floating near the corpses were seen an empty gasoil drum and half a dozen watermelons. Nothing else; no traces of shipwreck. Nothing. Four men of the *Maena* were missing, and they were never found.

It is impossible that the seven men should have died from cold or hunger, since they remained only nine hours afloat, more or less, and through survival tests we know that a man can be afloat and alive for much longer than that, specially in July in warm waters. Can seven men with lifejackets drown? In this connection it should be remembered that in the Canary Islands, three out of the crew of four belonging to a small fishing boat, which sunk in La Graciosa, were still alive when found 18 hours later. They had no lifejackets. The seven men of the *Maena* were all strong, young seamen.

Thor Heyerdahl's Strange Sightings

We also find strange underwater and marine sightings in Thor Heyerdahl's account of the Kon-Tiki raft expedition[5]. The voyage took many weeks, and put Heyerdahl and his friends in close contact with the sea and its mysteries. I quote him:

"On several occasions we glided past a large dark mass, the size of the floor of a room, that lay motionless under the surface of the water like a hidden reef (which it couldn't be, since the raft was in the middle of the Pacific, between the Peruvian harbour of El Callao and the island of Raroia, with many hundreds of fathoms under her'. It was presumably the giant ray of evil repute but it never moved, and we never went close enough to make out its shape clearly". (Page 120.)

But before this, Heyerdahl says: "On other nights balls of light three feet and more in diameter would be visible down in the water, flashing at irregular intervals like electric lights turned on for a moment". (*Ibid.*, page 90). What on earth—or under the sea—could these strange underwater foo-fighters be?

But this is not all: "About two o'clock on a cloudy night, when the man at the helm had difficulty in distinguishing black water from black sky, he caught sight of a faint illumination down in the water which slowly took the shape of a large animal. It was impossible to say whether it was plankton shining on its body, or whether the animal itself had a phosphorescent surface, but the glimmer down in the black water gave the ghostly creature obscure, wavering outlines. Sometimes it was roundish, sometimes oval, or triangular, and suddenly it split into two parts which swam to and fro under the raft independently of each other. Finally there were three of these large shining phantoms wandering round in slow circles under us.

"They were real monsters, for the visible parts alone were some five fathoms long. . . . Mysterious and noiseless, our shining companions kept a good way beneath the surface . . . the glimmer of light on their backs revealed that the beasts were bigger than elephants but they were not whales, for they never came up to breathe . . . And, like all proper goblins and ghosts, they had sunk into the depths when the dawn began to break". (*Ibid.* pages 90–91.)

On another time, Heyerdahl says, ". . . we saw the sea boil and bubble while something like a big wheel came up and rotated in the air . . ." (*Ibid.* page 118).

Notes

[1] FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July-August 1964, page 14.
[2] See *Flying Saucers on the Moon*, by Harold T. Wilkins, 1954 (Published in the U.S.A. as *Flying Saucers on the Attack*).
[3] *The Books of Charles Fort*, Fortean Society. Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1959.
[4] *Sheila in the Wind*, by Adrian Hayter, Hodder & Stoughton, London.
[5] *Kon-Tiki*, by Thor Heyerdahl. Translated by F. H. Lyon, New York, 1953.

The Mysterious Templeton Photograph

By Gordon W. Creighton

THE land of a large UFO on 26th April 1964 at Socorro in New Mexico, at a spot only a few miles from the scene of the first A-Bomb Test, was proof enough that our visitors are still interested in our dabblings in realms that would no doubt be better left alone. During the following month (May) we had the strange episode of Mr. Jim Templeton's photograph. Perhaps the two episodes are not unrelated?

The published facts of the Templeton case seem to be as follows (see *Daily Express* and *Daily Mirror* of 13th June last): Mr. James P. Templeton, a Carlisle fireman, living at 201 Newtown Road, Carlisle, was, on a day in May, with his wife and two daughters on Burgh Marsh, on the lonely banks of the Solway Firth. He was taking a series of colour photographs of his five-year old daughter Elizabeth. His wife and his other daughter were behind him. There was not a tree and not another person in sight. In the distance, on the other side of the Solway Firth, lay the Chapel Cross Atomic Station and a NATO radar-tracking base.

The weather was excellent. There was nothing strange or unusual to be seen, although Mr. Templeton has since said that it did strike him as rather odd at the time that all the cattle and sheep that usually graze on the Burgh Marsh were "huddled together some distance away, as though a storm was brewing".

The series of pictures taken of the little girl were sent off to Kodak Ltd. for processing, and when they came back there was a note with them remarking that it was a pity that the best of the lot was "spoiled by a man in the background".

And a man there is, without doubt, despite Jim Templeton's emphatic statement that except for his little girl in front of him there was not a soul in sight.

The Kodak Company assured him that there could not possibly be any question of a flaw in the film or the camera. He took the picture to the Carlisle police, and their experts studied it. At first, said Detective Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn, they thought it was a double exposure. But soon they decided it was not.

The photograph, which is reproduced on page 12, shows a man in a white garb which looks extraordinarily like a padded space-suit. And on his head is a helmet, apparently transparent. The figure is standing with its back to Mr. Templeton and a few feet behind the little girl and in fact seems to be looking across the Solway Firth towards the Chapel Cross Atomic Plant. The figure appears to be that of a big man. "At least seven feet in height", so the Carlisle fireman and policeman felt, as they studied the picture.

"Very puzzling", concluded Chief Superintendent Tom Oldcorn, "but we're not taking it seriously. It must be some sort of freak picture."

The next report was a ten-line piece in the *Daily Express* of 27th July, from which we learnt that Mr. Templeton was sending his camera and film to the Ministry of Defence to assist the Security men in an investigation which they were making of the affair.

In the meantime, the *Yorkshire Post* (24th July) was reporting that there was a local eccentric who often ran about naked on Burgh Marsh, and had been seen by numerous residents of the nearby village of Burgh-by-Sands. The police, it seemed, were now quite satisfied that he was the man in the picture. But not Mr. Templeton, who said: "I have seen this man running about. When I saw him he was wearing a pair of shorts. I refuse to believe he is the figure in the photo. I am firmly convinced that he wasn't in sight when I took it. I haven't an explanation of my own but I refuse to accept this one".

The next item to come our way was even more interesting. The *Yorkshire Post* of 3rd September carried a report, from its Carlisle correspondent, to the effect that Mr. Templeton had now revealed that he had been closely questioned by two mystery men who arrived in a Jaguar, flashed Security cards, and referred to each other only by number. (No. 9 and No. 11). The rendezvous was arranged by telephone, and took place out on Burgh Marsh. The two very well-dressed and well-spoken gentlemen, questioned him closely about the weather at the time when the photograph was taken, whether there were any birds about, and where the cattle were on the Marsh. "Then one tried to trap me," said Mr. Templeton. "He said: 'This would be where the man was at the time'. I told him there was no man."

A young friend of mine, Mr. Gavin Warburton, now in South Africa, recently had a chat with Mrs. Elizabeth Klarer, who, as readers will know, claims to have ridden in a saucer and to have taken a number of photographs of the craft, in July 1956 (See FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, November/Decem-

Copyright: J. Templeton

The Templeton photograph

ber 1956). Mrs. Klarer told my friend that our visitors have more than one way of rendering their craft and themselves invisible to us, and that one of these ways is to cause some of the light-waves to be bent by the agency of their magnetic fields.

I suggest that when Mr. Templeton took his pictures of his daughter, a UFO had already landed, and was quite near him, in that very meadow. Do the camera and the human eye register precisely the same types of light-wave? Is it not possible that the only reason why the UFO does not appear on Mr. Templeton's picture is that he did not happen to have his camera pointed at it? But he did have it pointed at the back of a member of the UFO's crew.

Mr. Templeton, like all good countrymen, is a good observer. He noted that the cattle were huddled together as though a storm were brewing. But no storm was brewing; the weather was fine, as the beautifully clear photograph shows. It is known however, that storms are magnetic, or at any rate, involve some kind of changes that affect the magnetic field. Is it then not likely that the presence of the UFO was sensed by the cattle, and that these animals were perceptive enough to know that there was something *magnetic* about it, something like the portents of a storm?

Mr. Rex Stanford, the well-known American UFO researcher, was recently in London, and he gave a most interesting talk at the Caxton Hall on 12th September to members of the British U.F.O. Research Association (BUFORA). Among the many very interesting things that he said, I recall most particularly that he was present at Socorro, New Mexico, earlier this year, when Dr. J. Hynek (Director of Dearborn Observatory) and U.S. Air Force officials were there investigating the landing of 26th April. *Dr. Hynek and the U.S. Air Force take the Socorro case very seriously*, Mr. Stanford told us. They know quite well that a large silvery craft, the size of two petrol tank-cars, landed there. They know that the witness, the highway patrol policeman Lonnie Zamora, has a high reputation for honesty. They know that he saw several small men (about 3½ ft. high) near the machine. They know that the machine left deep wedge-shaped marks in the very hard earth, where its four feet had stood, and they know that as the machine took off, one of its legs grazed against a piece of rock and left particles of metal on that rock. They also know that the landing received quite widespread publicity in the USA and here in Europe. In sum, they know that the Socorro case is one that they can't laugh away. No talk of Ford hub-caps or high-flying geese or low-flying planets this time.

I suggest that just as there are officials in the United States who take a deep interest in the Socorro landing, so too there are officials here in Britain who take a deep interest in the Burgh Marsh Landing.

And the same reasons underlie their interest. Those reasons relate to atomic energy. There are atomic installations near Socorro and near Burgh Marsh. Homo So-called Sap. is tinkering. Does he really know what he is doing? Is it not apparent that, even though he, poor fool, may not know, others, *somewhere*, do?

WHIDBY ISLAND CONTACT

Whilst deploring the fact that the lady contactee in this new case from the U.S.A. prefers anonymity, we feel that her story should be published in view of the strange and interesting features which come to light. It is the policy of this *REVIEW* to present all aspects of the flying saucer mystery without prejudice, leaving its readers to judge individual cases on their merits.

WE are indebted to Marvin W. Smith, a member and active researcher of the Everett Flying Saucer Club, in the State of Washington, for sending us a full report of a new contact story.

It seems that Mr. Smith came to hear of this tale during a casual conversation with a friend. There was nothing casual, however, about his subsequent investigation. A diligent check through directories, a series of telephone calls, an exchange of letters, and finally an uninvited visit to Whidby Island, across the Sound from Everett, brought him face to face with the reluctant contactee.

The description "reluctant" is used advisedly. Mr. Smith points out that the contactee is a retiring, middle-aged woman who shuns publicity. Furthermore, he stresses the fact that she did not invite him to hear her story: it was he who sought her out. He describes her as "a matter-of-fact, reasoning individual who has had quite a bit of experience in public life", and he goes on to reveal how, when the overall UFO picture was discussed with her, she was suspicious of the validity of many other contact claims. She suspected that some claimants had invented stories, hoping subsequently to "cash-in" on them through publication.

In accordance with this lady's wish, Mr. Smith has withheld her true name: instead, he calls her "Mrs. Ruth Brown".

Mr. Smith's first visit to Whidby Island took place early in February 1964. He found Ruth Brown living in a detached house, with her nearest neighbours more than a quarter of a mile away.

Enquiries elicited that there had been two visitations by unidentifiable craft, the first in July 1963, the second in the following October.

The first "contact", which proved to be rather a tenuous one, occurred when the good lady was on the point of retiring for the night after an evening's televiewing. She stated that throughout the evening she had experienced an uneasy, prickly feeling that she was being "watched", but it was not until she looked by chance from her bedroom window that she was aware that anything unusual was happening. It was then that she saw a strange craft hovering near the house. Her immediate reaction was not one of fear, as one might have expected, but one of inquisitiveness instead, for she hurried outside the house to get a better view. In this she was unlucky: when she reached the yard the UFO had gone.

A daylight visitation

The second visitation was quite sensational, however, and more than compensated for the disappointment of the July sighting. It happened at breakfast time, in broad daylight.

Mrs. Brown saw a machine of similar appearance to the July visitor. It was about ten feet long, coloured grey, and rather like an aeroplane to look at, shorn of wings, tail, fins and undercarriage. There was no visible means of propulsion.

The UFO approached from the North, and as it halted, it hovered some five feet from the ground, quite close to the eastern side of the house. The witness reports that the front part was transparent, and that she could see at least three figures inside. Whilst the craft hovered, the grass underneath was flattened.

Quite suddenly, one of the occupants, a being of human shape and size, was seen to be standing on the ground, having seemingly *emerged through the side of the craft!* "He" was clothed in "asbestos textured coveralls . . . which concealed the feet, hands and face, except for openings where the eyes should be, but where no eyes were visible. . . ."

The craft, led by the being on the ground, now began to move slowly round the house. Mrs. Brown hastened to the door and cried out to the solitary figure: "What do you want?" Whereupon he con-

ferred with his companions in the machine, before turning and saying quite clearly—"One of our party knows you! We will return!" He then re-entered the craft in the same disturbing manner that he had left it.

The craft, or UFO, now continued its movement round the house, with Mrs. Brown following, and then a second strange thing happened. Without warning, it suddenly *shrank considerably in size*, and tilted so that its rear portion *dipped into the ground*. The startled witness at first concluded that it was taking in water, but subsequent speculation favours the view that it was seeking fuel of a kind.

The occupants signalled to Mrs. Brown that she was not to touch or to go near their craft. She claims that she had an "awareness" of this, and suggests that it would indicate some form of thought transference, or telepathy.

When the "digging" operation was over, the UFO swelled up to its previous size and then moved off in an easterly direction, with ". . . much steam, smoke, a flash *and noise*, rapidly disappearing from sight."

Some little while after this visit, a strange fungus appeared on the ground at the spot where the "digging" had taken place.

Marvin Smith had suggested that the object of the visit was not to study the locality, but to gauge the effect of such contact on human beings. He feels that this theory is supported by the space visitors' statement that they knew of Mrs. Brown, and that they would return.

SOIL SAMPLERS

IS this planet of ours being subjects to a series of tests? Is it beyond the realms of possibility that extra-terrestrials are so interested in what makes us tick that they have mounted, and are still mounting, expeditions to examine the ingredients of our life here on Earth?

There has been ample evidence during the past two years, that the flying saucers are interested in our water supplies, particularly reservoirs and fresh-water lakes: the Sheffield flap, among others, proved that point. Many are the whispers, too, that extra-terrestrial visitors are depositing those mysterious cat-like animals to test their reactions to our atmosphere, and to life on our planet.

To add to all this, we are currently receiving a series of reports which, whilst uncorroborated, confirm the impression that sporadic visits are being made to take samples of our soil. The strange contact story from the U.S.A., which is told in the preceeding article, is but one of these reports. Whatever may be thought of Marvin Smith's story, it contains some very striking links with other accounts and reports. It serves also to promote new thoughts on old mysteries.

Flashback to another Island Mystery

After he had prepared Mr. Smith's Whidby Island Contact story for publication, Charles Bowen drew our attention to the description of the unusual "digging" and sucking operations performed by the UFO. He reminded us of the story of the mystery hole discovered in a field at Puckwell Farm, Niton, Isle of Wight. (See WORLD ROUND-UP in the May-June 1964 issue).

In August, while on holiday at Niton, Mr. Bowen visited Puckwell Farm and discussed the phenomenon with the farmer, who was sceptical of the official view that the hole had probably been caused by a bomb. True, German bombers *had* attacked buildings down on Niton Undercliff during the war, but this hole was found near the top of the inland cliff, and no unexploded bomb was discovered by the Bomb Disposal people.

The farmer shrugged off bomb theories with the words: "One night there was my field as it had always been, with no sign of a subsidence, and that despite regular ploughing: next morning there's this great hole, five feet or so straight down, then a bend, and downwards at a new angle for at least another ten feet, maybe more. Also, mark you, it was as clean as a whistle. No loose, crumbled earth falling away from the sides, like one would expect. Just as though it had been sucked out!" It seems, furthermore, that no trace was to be found of the large amount of earth and stones which must have been displaced!

When Leonard Cramp saw the Puckwell Farm hole, he said he did not rule out the possibility that it could have been caused by a space object. Others among us speculated after the report had appeared in the *Southern Evening Echo*, as to whether a space intruder could have landed to take a soil example.

The Soil Thieves

Now, so soon after the Isle of Wight mystery, we have this report of a UFO "excavating" at a relatively lonely place near the North West Coast of the United States. Did something similar to this happen, unobserved, at Puckwell Farm?

There are other features of the Whidby Island story which may be compared with the contact

story which appeared under the heading DOWN ON THE FARM, in the WORLD ROUND-UP columns of the September-October 1964 issue of the REVIEW. The clothing of the crewman at Whidby Island, and his method of getting out of, and back into his ship, are remarkably similar to those of the space visitors at Mr. Wilcox's farm near Newark Valley, New York State.

The object of the visit to Mr. Wilcox's farm? None other than soil sampling, though the technique of stealing trays full of Mr. Wilcox's topsoil was crude by comparison with the methods of the Whidby Island visitors!

Which brings us to the question: was *soil sampling* the cause of those famous craters of the summer of 1963—particularly the ones at Charlton in Wiltshire, at Flamborough Head, on Dufton Fell in Westmorland, and in a Southampton Park?

MYSTERY ANIMALS

By Charles Bowen

THE increase in the appearance of large mystery animals of the cat family has been most marked in the past eighteen months. Reports of the sudden advent of feline predators in regions where they are normally unknown among the local fauna, have filtered through from far and wide. Not so far, either, in some cases, for there has been a veritable rash of reports from Southern England.

It may surprise the general public, but not, surely, readers of this REVIEW, to learn that the "lion" hunts that have been mounted are neither isolated incidents, nor are they peculiar to the 1960's. There have been several instances in England alone during the last hundred years.

For example, in March 1906, the good people of Windsor were greatly perturbed by the ravages of a strange animal which mauled sheep so severely that they had to be killed. Before the disturbance died down, fifty-one sheep had been killed outright.

Little purpose will be served by cataloguing numerous other incidents from the past. Suffice it to say that the works of Charles Fort abound with evidence of identical scares!

Not unnaturally, Ufologists have been interested in the recent developments, and more than a year ago, I heard the view expressed that it would be only a matter of time before there would be evidence of a tie-up between the animals and the flying saucers.

That remark was made after the fuss about a cheetah which was encountered in the Shooters' Hill area of Kent, had died down. There were several cheetah "sightings", and a serious and well-organised hunt was mounted in this populous district in the south-east corner of London. Police and tracker dogs joined in, but to no avail.

The Shooters Hill affair was in July 1963, a time when we were deeply interested in the happenings at Mr. Blanchard's farm in Charlton, Wilts., (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW of September/October 1963).

On February 14, 1964, a new mystery animal was reported, this time in the Hawkhurst-Cranbrook area of Kent, some 50 miles from London. This animal was alleged to be "huge", with two-inch razor-sharp claws. A Mr. John Golding, of Park Cottages, Hawkhurst, found a set of giant paw marks on Duval's Farm. He and the owner, Mr. F. C. Brinsley, followed the trail across the farm. The marks were described by the local veterinary surgeon, Mr. Douglas Good, as probably having been made by a member of the "Big cat" family with front feet nearly twenty-four inches apart, and heavy enough for the feet and claws to sink nearly two inches into fairly firm ground.

Five days later, a *tiger* was reported at large in East Anglia. This creature was seen on a railway embankment at East Runton, near Cromer. Appeals were made on television for further information: some thirty police dogs were employed in a search, again to no avail, although there were persistent eye-witness reports describing the animal variously as a tiger, a puma and a cheetah.

The Vereeniging Story

It was at this time that he we heard tell of an amazing story which had been published in "Die Brandwag", an Afrikaans language magazine from South Africa. A translation appeared in the May/June 1964 issue of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The two men, who were driving at night on the Potchefstroom/Vereeniging road, were surprised to see a strange, large animal. In a land which boasts a vast array of magnificent beasts, they were surprised enough to stop to investigate this creature, which they merely supposed could be a large dog. They weren't too sure on that point, and events which followed must have driven thoughts of the animal right out of their minds, for their car was "buzzed" by a UFO. Several spectacular passes were made at them, and they were petrified.

To us, in the comfort of our armchairs, it seemed that the UFO was trying to distract the attention

of the men while the animal escaped. This then, was the first hint of an apparent connection between mystery animals and flying saucers. There would have to be closer investigation of any future mystery animal story.

Of one thing we could be certain: mystery animals, and those who saw them or suffered their depredations, would be accorded the full ridicule treatment, and there would be an ample flow of evasive official explanations and denials. Indeed, there was a precedent in the 1906 case at Windsor, for a sentry who shot at the animal was put on a charge, and confined to barracks for firing *without cause!*

There was also the engaging possibility that Randallism (defined by Waveney Girvan in page 7 of the September/October 1963 issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW) would again rear its ugly head!

Surrey-Hampshire Border Country, 1964

In August a mystery *puma* was the subject of a wave of reports from the area around Godalming, Farnham and Odiham. Much of the country is farmland, but there are large tracts of woodland and dense bushy undergrowth. Hunts were organised, with headquarters at Godalming Police station, and when farm manager Edward Blanks reported that one of his steers had been savaged, the search was intensified. It was then that seriousness gave way, at least in some sections of the national press, to ridicule, and, as was expected, Randallism appeared in the form of a Canadian lion-hunter who called himself Billy Davidson.

It was time to investigate the mystery.

A quick perusal of a volume from Allen's Naturalist's Library, *Cats*, by R. Lydekker, revealed that the Puma (Felis Concolor) is one of the largest cats of the New World. The native Indians, and the French, call it the "Cougar", whilst U.S. hunters called it the "Panther". The average size of the Puma is 40 inches from nose to tail root, with a tail of some 20 inches. It has a small head, with no mane, but with large rounded ears, and is tawny coloured on its upper parts, dirty white underneath. It often attacks its prey for the sheer pleasure of killing, leaping from prominent rocky positions or from overhanging trees. It rarely attacks man, and will usually only do so if cornered. In fact, there are records of Pumas actually defending men from attacks by other wild beasts.

Bushylease Farm, October 1964

Fortified by this reassuring information, I made my way to Bushylease Farm on October 11.

The well-appointed farm comprises about 300 acres, and the houses and outbuildings are some quarter of a mile from the main road. Access is by a roadway which rises over a low ridge, and then drops down to the farm, flanked by woodland (mostly silver birch and pine) and large areas of bushy undergrowth which are quite close to the farm buildings.

Two fiercely barking dogs, one an alsatian, gave the alarm at my approach.

Mr. Blanks, weather-beaten and down to earth, told me that the woods were not preserved by gamekeepers, and are known to contain foxes.

It seems that the mystery puma has been around the farm on and off for two years. During the severe winter of 1962/63, when the farmer expected to trail it easily in the snow, it failed to put in an appearance. At other times during its earlier visits, Mr. Blanks let the dogs off their leads, but they flatly refused to go after it. They were terrified.

Apparently the animal has a very strong smell, with a tang of ammonia, which Mrs. Blanks can detect at some considerable distance—surprising, seeing that it is in the open air.

The mystery animal is usually nocturnal. There have been daytime visits, but these were in fog. It betrays its presence with a screaming, or "yowling" noise, like one would expect, says Mr. Blanks, from a dozen cats whose tails are trodden on simultaneously! The "yowling", furthermore, only appears to be made when the animal crosses open ground.

The puma has been seen on a number of occasions: once it stopped when caught in the headlights whilst crossing the approach road in front of the Blanks' car. For an instant or so it stared at them, then made off with a swish of its tail. Quite recently Mr. and Mrs. Blanks and their son, had walked under a tree which overhangs the road, unaware that the puma was lurking in the branches. They heard it jump down after they had passed, and just caught a glimpse of it in a torch beam. It had landed on, and crossed, a manure heap, and its pad marks have been preserved: they were more than four inches long. I also saw claw marks and scratches on the smooth-barked tree.

By this time, Mr. Blanks was talking freely: at first one had the feeling that he was apprehensive of being thought ridiculous. He had been perturbed by the attitude of authority, and disappointed by the reactions of the press. Then there was the search by the Canadian hunter—but more of that in due course.

By now, satisfied that here at last was an interviewer who was prepared to treat the matter seriously, Mr. Blanks ventured to tell me the most surprising part of his story—the matter of the STRANGE LIGHTS. I should point out that at no

time did I mention my interest in flying saucers.

Part of Mr. Blanks' routine is to make the rounds of his farm before retiring for the night.

On two occasions he suddenly became aware of a mysterious light on the roofs of the farm buildings. The light moved from roof to roof, yet he could not see the beam which produced the light. It was certainly **not** *produced by car headlights from the Odiham Road: the local topography precluded that possibility. Mr. Blanks could not trace the source of the light, and he was puzzled and worried by the phenomenon, because on each occasion the mystery puma arrived on the scene shortly afterwards!*

I can only presume Mr. Blanks did not give this part of his story to the press for fear of further ridicule.

The story "blew wide open" when one of Mr. Blanks' steers was attacked. The mystery animal had been around on the night of the attack, and when the farmer found that his herd had panicked and smashed through a fence in three places, he rounded them up and discovered that one steer was missing. It was found lying in a pool of mud and blood in the undergrowth, with terrible claw marks down its shoulders, on both sides of the neck and along its flanks. It was still alive, and subsequently the veterinary surgeon's treatment cost £20. Six days elapsed before the steer could get back onto its feet.

The visit of the Canadian hunter must have been quite a pantomime. "Give me 48 hours", said Mr. Billy Davidson, "and I'll get me a cat!" Much hard work was done in the undergrowth, with more than 40 reporters in tow; the one thing missing from the proceedings was stealth! This strange interlude was treated lightheartedly in sections of the press, particularly by the London *Evening News* of August 31.

Mr. Davidson retired defeated, and one is left with the feeling that this was another instance of Randallism, that he had been put up to his task merely to be shot down like an Aunt Sally, with the object of discrediting the whole affair.

Mr. Blanks assured me that the puma had returned several times since the Davidson fiasco: the frequency of appearance is about once in every five days. He has concealed himself in carefully constructed tree hideouts, but has never seen the puma on these occasions. Strange droppings, some covered, have been found.

As one would expect of a countryman, Mr. Blanks knows a great deal about foxes, and he laughs at the suggestion that he has mistaken a fox for the mystery puma. He pointed out that when the animal is in the vicinity, foxes have broken cover, which is most unusual: perhaps they, like

Mystery Animal Haunts

the dogs, are terrified, but for them it is merely a case of "out of the frying pan and into the fire", because in one fortnight alone Mr. Blanks shot eight of them *in the open!*

No doubt our farmer, and many others who have seen the mystery animals, will be amused by the recent attempt in the press to say that the "puma" chased at Farnborough airfield, proved only to be a fox. If it was a fox, then what was it doing on the runways? Perhaps it was scared of the terrifying thing in the nearby woods!

As usual, any old explanation is seized upon to kill an inexplicable mystery. Authority does not like a mystery: nor does the press, when it remains a mystery!

And mystery it does remain. Even as I finished this article, I learned of a report of two more sightings of the Hampshire puma by new witnesses. This report was in the B.B.C. "Today" programme of October 18.

Where do these animals come from? Certainly not zoos and circuses, for no such losses have been reported. It seems highly unlikely that a number of private persons have had cheetahs and pumas as domestic pets which they cannot report as lost because they smuggled them into the country in the first place. So I repeat, where do they come from, and what is their purpose?

A Brazilian Sighting

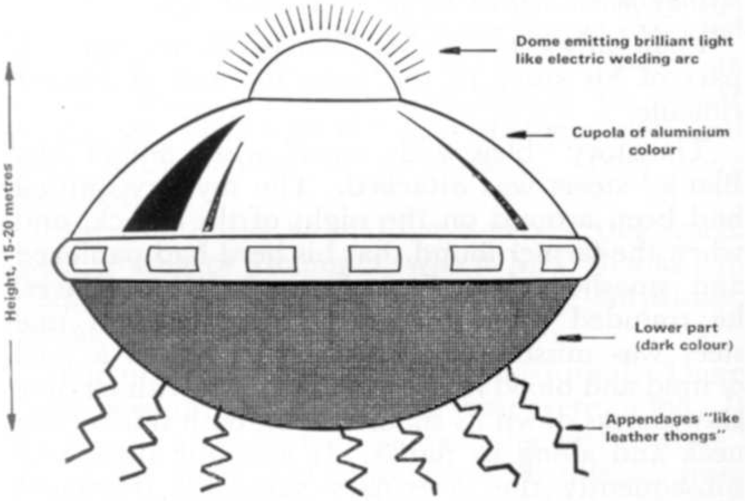
By Gordon W. Creighton

ACCORDING to a report received by General Chassin's saucer-research organization in Paris (G.E.P.A.), the following very interesting sighting occurred at 6 a.m. one day in April 1958 on the Atlantic sea-board of North-Eastern Brazil. A Brazilian jeweller named Senhor Wilson Lustosa was travelling along the beach from the port of Maceió to a place called Parapueira. (As I know from personal knowledge of this beautiful coast, there are virtually no roads, and one simply drives for miles along the broad beaches of dazzling white sand). At a spot called Saude, the witness stopped to ask some fishermen what they were looking at. They said that it was a flying saucer. He could see nothing at first, but soon he heard a humming noise, which grew rapidly louder, and perceived something which seemed to be falling out of the sky towards him, from the direction of the sea.

When the machine was at a distance of some 40 metres from him and the group of fishermen, and about 15 metres above the water, it began to rock sideways, and then stopped and hung there. It was from 15 to 20 metres in height, "and its width was approximately that of a travelling circus". It seemed to have three distinguishable parts: the upper half was the colour of aluminium, like an inverted bowl, and on the top of it was a small protuberance or dome, with a light as bright as that of an electric welding arc. The lower part was also a bowl, of the same size as the top, but dark in colour, and around the widest part, where the two bowls met, was a band with a number of square portholes, from which came a reddish light. The portholes nearest to the party of onlookers were darkened, as though there were people looking out through them.

Beneath the machine, the water seemed to be boiling, or being sucked up, but without actually touching the under part of it, and a faint humming could be heard at brief intervals. From the under part of the machine a number of things like leather thongs were hanging, motionless.

During the hour that they stood there and watched it, it rose again several times into the sky



and then descended, as if crashing, "with a noise to shatter the ear-drums".

This report comes from Senhor Walter Sa Cardoso, of rua Santa Cruz 291, Farol, Maceió, who had it from the eyewitness. I reproduce the sketch which accompanied the report, and suggest that this craft may be identical with the type photographed off the coast of California by Radio Officer T. Fogl one day in 1957. (This photo was reproduced on pages 6 and 7 of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for January-February 1959, and there was another—slightly different—picture, also by Radio Officer Fogl, which accompanied Dr. Bernard Finch's article, "The Under-Carriage", on page 23 of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for March-April 1961, but was inadvertently reproduced upside down). Radio Officer Fogl's saucer, like the Brazilian one here reported, has things projecting below it, but these seem to be metallic, and certainly nothing like "leather thongs".

This seems to be a type of UFO which has been reported many times. Numerous reports of night-sightings have referred to "turtle-shaped" objects, or "jellyfish-shaped objects", with long golden streamers hanging down (the leather thongs?).

I am not quite sure what would be the average Brazilian's idea of "the width of a travelling circus", but evidently this means that it must have seemed to the witness a very big craft, at least 100 feet or so in diameter.

A Layman's Time and Space

By A. G. Cadman

The following article is reprinted from the SPHERE of June 13, by courtesy of the Editor. We include it in this issue of the *REVIEW* not only because of its great intrinsic interest, but also as an incidation that flying saucers can be referred to seriously in a general high quality magazine. Some years ago this would have not seemed possible.

DESPITE the limitations of security and public relations expertise, many people have heard strange things concerning the experiences of spacemen regarding time measurement. Einstein's simple statement that "Time is Relative to a man's position in the Universe," he chose to prove by mathematics which could be appreciated only by the few. It seems that pace shots have provided simple physical proof. We hear that a spaceman can return after a number of days in orbit with certain of his watch type instruments recording but a fraction of that time. If this is so, then perhaps a layman may be permitted to theorise.

In the first diagram below it has been assumed that time lies in ever slower circles as one progresses away from the thick atmosphere and cloying gravity of the globe. If spacemen orbit the Earth in the four sections marked A.B.C.D., then it may be that the vast distance covered at D may be but a fraction of the Earth time at A, although they may have fled across the sky in visually the same period. Hence the possibility of a spaceman visiting a distant planet and returning to find his contemporaries aged while he is still young.

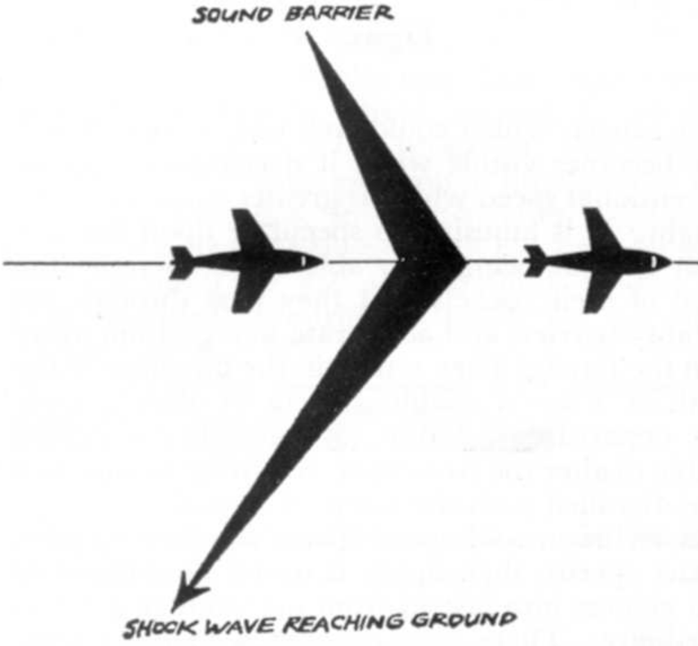


Figure 2

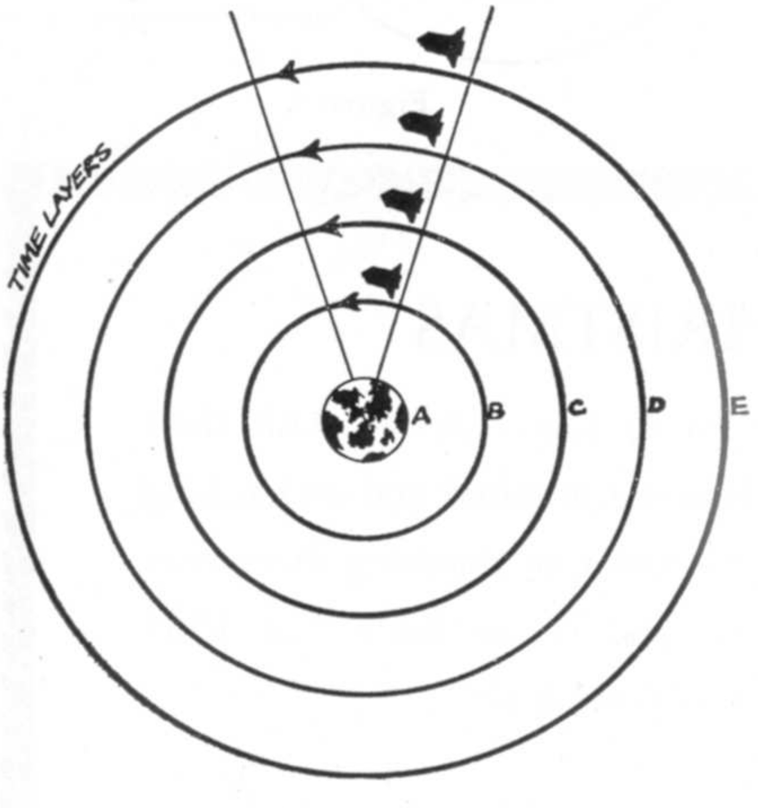


Figure 1

When we Earthbound creatures attempt to measure time in our simple physical form, we use as the final yardstick the speed of light. It is by this we are told the astronomers measure distances and changes in the skies. Yet it may be this theoretical barrier of the speed of light which can explain the persistent and ever increasing reports of alien objects in the skies. It is but thirty years ago that the sound barrier to the layman was the point of decimation for the speed-hungry airman. Events proved that the breach of the sound barrier brought little more danger than noise and broken glass. It it not possible that the penalty or advantage of exceeding the speed of light is invisibility? For if this is so then a ready explanation is to hand for the

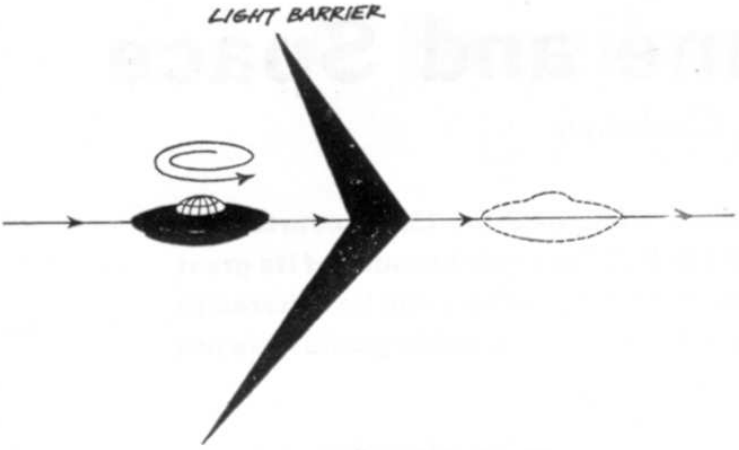


Figure 3

flying saucer, which could well be a vehicle which only becomes visible when it decelerates from its conventional speed which is greater than the speed of light. It is amusing to speculate upon the day when human beings are able so to increase the speed of their rockets that they pass through the visibility barrier, and accelerate to a position away from the Earth. They return in the direction of the Earth at a speed enabling them to observe their own departure, yet due to invisibility they are unable to alter the past event, which we would then have dignified with the name of history.

As techniques of space travel advance to even greater speeds, then surely it would be possible to steal glances into history from the vantage point of invisibility. There seems so much to learn from history, especially if one accepts that time is circular in the sense of Genesis. "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust" is a fair description of the brief human life span, but it may be possible to conceive a similar cycle for a mere planet such as ours. Perhaps an atomic holocaust would merely produce the dust from which the life cycle could begin again, taking its life as before from its one and only source of power—the sun. All this and much beside may yet be seen by our spirit in space.

The assumption that all is circular is not so unlikely when one considers the extraordinary cyclic nature of everything about us. The only difference between living man and dead man has often been said to be the dancing light behind his eyes. Call this spirit, soul, life-force, or what you will. It may yet be a moving force. The human body returns to dust to feed the earth and animals, to feed in their turn the next human being. The mysterious spirit could well be transplanted in the flash of time we call death, into another new life, new born. However, as with the flutterings of physical death sometimes this strange process goes

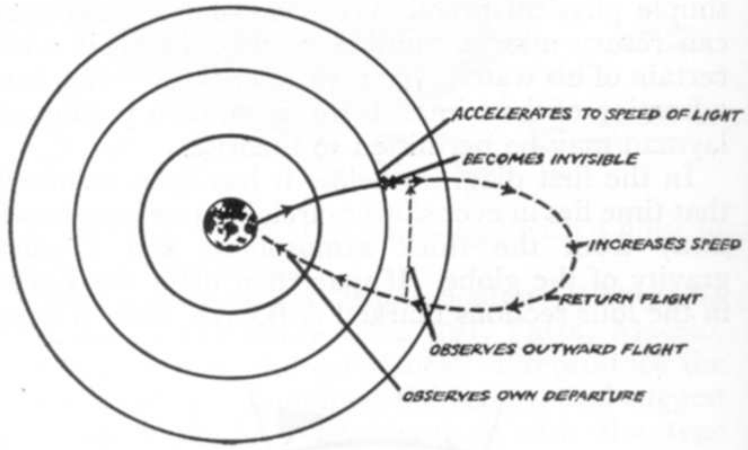


Figure 4

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

The Editor and Publishers of the *Flying Saucer Review* wish their readers all over the world a very Happy Christmas and an exciting New Year. They also take this opportunity of thanking them very cordially for their support and of expressing the hope that 1965 may see truth at last proclaimed

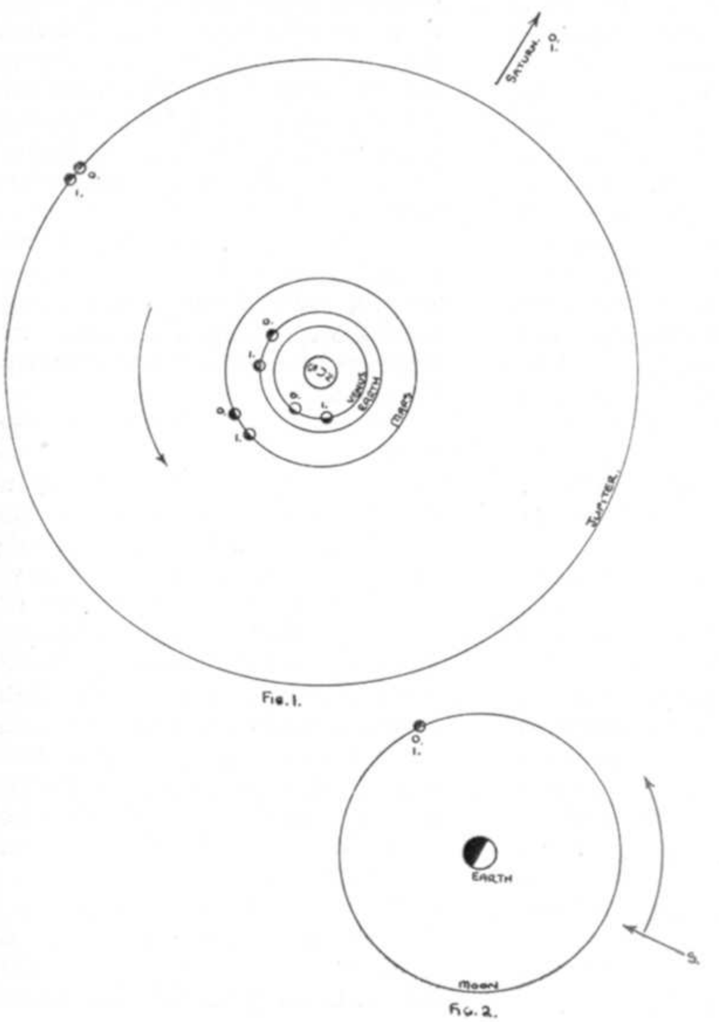
awry in time accounting for the spiritualist world of communication with past beings. Again such a transfer of spirit could account for the strange affinity felt by so many for a past age of history, and more especially for the weird familiarity which sometimes strikes a visitor for the first time in a foreign land.

The thoughts sketched above are put forward on the bold assumption that our human struggles with the edge of space are but a beginning. But surely it is an inexcusable vanity to presume that there are not other "intelligences" probing into the upper regions of their space in which our earth sits. The flying saucer as a space vehicle may well be a reasonable possibility if we permit ourselves to think of our potential visitors as an "intelligence" clothed or bodied for a planet with vastly differing characteristics to ours. A lack of oxygen or water seems to the writer a poor excuse for the assumption that no life can exist on a given planet. Surely other planets in their own circular evolutionary pattern have produced other beings. As the ant to the elephant may have the inability to relate or comprehend, so the human being must surely keep an open mind about the inhabitants of other globes.

It has been suggested that the Russian success in placing two spacemen in orbit has revealed the practicality of telepathy in space. If this be so then it may be but one of many latent human qualities which the freedom of space may reveal. The humble hedgehog approaching hibernation retires for the winter with his back firmly aimed towards the point of the compass from which will come the winter snow. The hedgehog knows, more surely than the weatherman, nature's arrangements for the winter. Perhaps this sense is still buried in man. Again we hear of strange confusions among space travellers produced perhaps by radiation, electric impulse or weightlessness. However, this very confusion may well reveal other qualities of thought, action and observation.

Whatever thoughts we may have upon the adventure into space, surely we should preserve objective minds. The speed of technological advance may plunge us through time and an ever hastening evolution into discoveries, revelations and even human change, which can only be faced with favour if we are able to think boldly, and without mental restriction based on our short human history.

The Moon and the Planets by I. M. Pither



Figs. 1 and 2

0. The Moon and Planets for mid-November, 1964.

1. The Moon and Planets for mid-December, 1964.

N.B.

On November 13, Jupiter will be in opposition with the Earth; See Fig. 1. (For explanation of this, see issue for September-October, 1963).

PERSONAL COLUMN

AMERICAN SUBSCRIBER will exchange on an equal basis, UFO photographs, pictorial illustrations of UFOs, newspaper clippings, concerning sightings. A. Onori, 84 Summer Ave., Newark 4, N.J., U.S.A.

"REPORT FROM EUROPE" edited by Major Hans Petersen (Danish Air Force), Leader, Scandinavian UFO Information (SUFOI). 200 pages. 30 shillings, incl. post. Order from: Ronald Caswell, 309 Carters Mead, Harlow, Essex.

TEENAGERS interested in Flying Saucers, write: P. Coleman, 7 Sleaford Road, Mall Green, Birmingham 28.

World round-up *of news and comment about recent sightings*

ENGLAND

Dunstable; A bright blue object

The *Dunstable Borough Gazette* carried the following report in its August 14 issue:

"Flying saucer, satellite or shooting star? What is the mystery behind the bright blue object seen in the sky above Heath and Reach by three night anglers from Dunstable? This is the puzzle that faces the three men, who saw the 'flying saucer' not once, but on two separate occasions the second time through a powerful telescope.

" 'Was it a flying saucer?' was the question put to one of the anglers, 25 - year - old mechanical engineer Harry Dover, of 5 Periwinkle Lane, Dunstable, by a *Gazette* reporter. 'There's no other explanation for it,' he replied. The three friends first saw 'the object in the sky' when they were fishing in Jones's sandpit, just off the A5 at Heath and Reach on Monday evening, July 27.

"Mr. Dover said it was at about 10.40 p.m. when he and the other two men, Alec Saunders, of 41, Hillcroft, and Robert Rivers, of Suncote Avenue, Dunstable, saw the flying saucer.

" 'It was peculiar,' said Mr. Dover. 'We all looked up into the sky to take a bearing on a star to see if the wind had changed, when a bluish-looking thing started to move away in an arc towards the north-west.' Mr. Dover said the object was certainly stationary before it began to move off.

"Last week they again set off on a fishing trip to Jones's sandpit, this time taking a telescope as well as fishing rods. Mr. Dover again took up the story: 'It was about the same time when we looked around the sky and saw it again. This time it was going in an easterly direction. I looked through the telescope and it slowly started to move away. Then, all of a sudden, it accelerated rapidly and disappeared out of sight.'

"He described the flying saucer as round in shape, and 'with an eerie, fluorescent blue colour'."

Another Mystery Animal

Because of their possible connection with UFOs, the REVIEW this year has published acounts of mystery animals seen in South Africa and England. There is another to add to the list and it comes this time from Crondall, Hampshire. The animal is an unpleasant creature quite apart from its disgusting stench. It has apparently attacked a man and also a steer. Mr. Edward Blanks, manager of Busheylease Farm, Ewshot, said that both he and his son had seen the animal several times in recent months. According to the excellent report that appeared in the *Hants and Berks Gazette* of August 28, Mr. Blanks' description was as follows: "It is about the size of an Alsatian, but lower to the ground. It is fawn in colour and has a cat's head with pointed ears. It makes an unearthly screaming noise." This time last year it attacked an Odiham man in his kitchen, and it was first seen over two years ago by a Mr. Ernest Jellett of Crondall.

Although several other residents of the area have reported the animal in identical terms and there has been further evidence in the form of spoor marks and savaged cattle, the invincible sceptic has appeared in this as in other mysteries. The usual rationalisations have been offered—all of them wide of the mark—and the witnesses dismissed as either drunk or incompetent.

ACTING EDITOR'S NOTE: Shortly before he was taken ill, Mr. Girvan prepared a note about a mystery animal. The note was intended for the World Round-up feature.

Our late Editor's interest was excited by the mystery predators, and here was one roaming at large in the Surrey-Hampshire border country within a mile or so of his home. This is the same animal which is described in the article on page 15 of this issue. It is felt that readers would like to know what Waveney Girvan had to say on this new and interesting problem, and that, accordinly, they will forgive a very small measure of duplication of the story.

Coventry man stops laughing

The *Coventry Express* of August 14 relates how a man who previously scoffed at others had the smile wiped off his face: "A flying saucer flew over the City this week claims a 25-year-old Coventry man. The man, Mr. Andrew Stuart, of 21 First Avenue, Copsewood, says he saw the 'saucer' hover over the City for three or four minutes.

"He says, 'I have never seen anything like it before. I always thought that all this talk about flying saucers was absolute rubbish, but now I am convinced that what I saw must have been one.'

"He says he noticed the saucer on Sunday night. 'I was sitting in my car with my girl friend on the Brandon Road when I suddenly saw this very bright light travel across the sky in a kind of arc. At first I thought it must be a shooting star, or the reflection of another car's headlights. But it was so bright that I got out of the car to have a look. The light appeared again, and this time it was travelling away from the City. Then it suddenly turned a right angle, and hovered over the City for three or four minutes, and then shot off in the opposite direction.

" 'I am sure that this wasn't a 'plane's lights, because it did not flicker at all. The light was terribly bright, brighter than the Pole Star—

and it was travelling away from Baginton airfield.'

"Mr. Stuart, who works at Humber added 'I wasn't drunk, and I know I wasn't imagining this. My friends at work think I am mad, but I know I am never going to laugh again at people who say they have seen flying saucers.' "

"Big round searchlight"

From the Chepstow *Weekly Argus*, August 20: "What was the perfectly round shape in the north-east sky at 4.45 a.m. on Friday? That is the question that Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Harrhy, of Caerwent, posed to the *South Wales Argus*.

" 'We are newsagents and this morning when the sky was clear in the north-east, and it was not quite dark, my husband called me out and pointed out a very big round object—much bigger than a star high in the sky,' said Mrs. Harrhy.

" 'It was perfectly round, but did not scintillate like a star but inside it there seemed to be lights, perhaps a dozen or 15. There were no other stars visible and only a few small clouds.'

"Mrs. Harrhy said there was some discussion between her and her husband as to whether the object was moving or not. After an hour cloud came up and obscured the sky. 'It was exceedingly bright,' said Mrs. Harrhy, 'and we have never seen anything like it before. It was not an aeroplane, and it seemed very far away. It was not a star and we are wondering if anyone who was up at that time saw it as well. We shall be looking out for it again,' added Mrs. Harrhy.

"Another Newport couple saw the mysterious object in the sky. This time the object, described as resembling a 'big round searchlight', was spotted at approximately 5 a.m. on Saturday by Mr. A. Dowling, of Maesglas Crescent, Newport.

"Mrs. Dowling said that her husband had called her to the bathroom from where he could see a large round light in the eastern sky. 'It was so bright and brilliant and big that he called me to see it. It was three or four times the size of the biggest star,' said Mrs. Dowling.

"The couple gazed at the light, which remained motionless until its disappearance behind a cloud at 6 a.m.

"A spokesman for the meteorological department at Rhoose airport said he had no knowledge of any unidentified object and he agreed that the sky that morning was too overcast for a satellite to be seen.

"The mysterious object reappeared on Tuesday. Mrs. B. E. Byron, of Dickens Drive, The Gaer, Newport, got out of bed to make herself a cup of tea. The time was 5.15. At 5.20 she went into the living room and sat down at the window.

" 'I can sit and drink my tea there and at the same time enjoy the view down over the docks and beyond to the channel.' Then Mrs. Byron looked up and saw a bright light in the sky. 'At first I thought it was a 'plane as it had that sort of shape to it, but it could not have been as it did not move all the while I was looking at it. It was not a star either as it was not high enough.'

"After watching the object for about an hour Mrs. Byron lost sight of it behind some clouds."

Three orange lights

This sighting and the very sensible comments that accompany it were taken from the *Huddersfield Examiner* for August 5: "Unidentified objects in the sky for which no apparent logical explanation can be found fascinate the mind of the modern man. In these times, when lunar travel is 'just around the corner' rather than the mere product of some author's fertile imagination, it is easy to let one's thoughts run riot and envisage all sorts of weird contraptions hurtling around our planet through the night sky.

"And so the reports come in from people who are convinced (and not having seen what they have seen we can but believe them) that they have seen objects in the sky, and I have just heard from Mr. and Mrs. A. Hirst, of 5 Kelvin Avenue, Dalton, who tell me of one 'thing' which they spotted recently.

"Mrs. Hirst said that they were watching television when, through a crack in the curtains, they saw three orange lights—they dashed to the window and there were the lights, floating slowly across the sky. They noticed that the lights formed a triangle, and one of them appeared to be revolving. Could it be no more than a common or garden 'plane? No, because 'the thing', whatever it was, was moving silently (and completely silent jets have yet to be put in the air). Gathering speed, it moved from a southerly direction gravitating to the east and disappearing.

" 'It was more like a helicopter than anything else, but there was no noise,' Mrs. Hirst told me. Her husband thought that it was rather like a 'buzz-bomb' from the last war—but one without the 'buzz'!"

Mystery at Elsdon

The *New Daily* in its August 20 issue printed the following comment by its regular contributor Brutus: "People in the tiny village of Elsdon, high in the Cheviots on the Border, are being puzzled by tiny spots of light travelling across the sky at fantastic speeds. They change direction at impossible angles and sometimes fly in formation. Many people have seen them, including the local post of the Observer Corps. No one has much idea what they are, except that they're not aircraft. Whether they are really UFOs or not, Elsdon may soon be in a good position to find out. Two observatories are being built near the village."
(Credit to Mr. John Ogilvy.)

Over Pelsall

The *Walsall Observer* in its August 7 issue carried the following report: "Unable to sleep, Mrs. Catherine Walsh stood gazing from her ground-floor bedroom window during the early hours of Thursday last (July 30). Suddenly, an oval-shaped, glowing object appeared in the night sky.

" 'At first I thought it was a flash of lightning, and I hid my face. Then I realised that it could not be, and I looked up and saw it cruise across the sky from right to left. Altogether, it was in view for about 10 seconds,' Mrs. Walsh said at her home at Flat 3, Oaklands Way, Pelsall, this week.

" 'It was quite plain, and was certainly not a conventional size or shape. It was beautifully coloured—blue, yellow and green,' an excited Mrs. Walsh told the *Observer*.

She emphasised that she had not been to sleep, and it would not have been a dream. 'I am quite sure I saw it, no matter what people might say.

It was an unforgetable experience,' she added.

"Her husband, Mr. Albert Walsh, retired Army officer, who served with the Royal Engineers, did not see the object. He said: 'I was fast asleep, but I can quite believe that my wife saw everything she says she saw. She is not the sort of person to be mistaken about a thing like this.'

"The couple have been at their present home only two months. They moved there from Willenhall. 'I like Pelsall. It is a very pleasant village—even though it has flying objects!' said Mrs. Walsh.

"A spokesman for the Edgbaston Observatory said that there were a lot of objects flying about that the general public did not recognise or did not know about.

"He rejected the idea of 'things from outer space', but said: 'We are getting a lot of stories of flying saucers these days, which turn out to be meteorological balloons.'

"The last report of a 'flying saucer' over Walsall was published in September, 1961, when a Bloxwich man spotted a glowing light which took 15 minutes to cross the sky.

"On that occasion, the observatory said the object was similar to an American satellite, which was balloon-shaped."

Three Littlehampton fishermen see UFO

From the *Brighton Evening Argus*, August 10: "Three men who were fishing from the cat walk at Littlehampton during the early hours of Sunday morning (August 9) claim that they saw a flying saucer hovering over the town. One of them, Mr. Michael Smith, aged 20, of Bayford Road, Littlehampton, is a member of the Royal Observer Corps, whose job it is to plot aircraft movements.

" 'It definitely was not an aeroplane,' he said.

"Another in the group, Mr. Brian Mills, sketched the flying saucer and drew a plan of its movements.

" 'We first saw it over the town at exactly 3.50,' said Mr. Mills, who is a partner in a plumbing firm and lives at Belloc Road, Littlehampton.

" 'It was a brilliant neon red and appeared to be stationary. Then it moved off up the River Arun, about 200 ft. from the ground, and came back and circled the town again. After stopping for a short while it went in the direction of Bognor Regis and disappeared.

" 'We were all watching it for about 15 minutes,' claimed Mr. Mills.

"The third man who says that he saw the flying saucer was Mr. Peter Homer, of Belloc Road, Littlehampton. None of the men was frightened by the object.

" 'It made no noise and never looked as though it was going to land,' said Mr. Mills. 'We were all extremely fascinated with it. I have never been particularly interested in flying saucers, but I have always kept an open mind about them. Certainly I have never seen one before.'

"He said that there were not many people on the beach when it arrived. Littlehampton police say that they have received no reports about unidentified objects in the town."

Flying objects over Kirkby

From the Liverpool *Echo*, July 27: "Police checked reports of mysterious flying objects over the Kirkby Industrial Estate last night after a call from two watchmen. For three weeks, 37-years-old John Parkinson and his mate Albert Sanderson have been keeping a careful check on the dazzling balls of light which they have seen hover above their hut in Lees Road and then flash across the sky.

"Nearly every night, say the men, they have watched the objects appear over the estate at about 11 p.m. and move around the sky at varying speeds, before they finally disappear in the early morning.

" 'We have told everyone including our family and friends, but they just laugh and shrug it off as though we had one over the eight,' said John, of 7 Fern Grove, Princes Park.

" 'Last night there were six of these things, stopping and moving in the sky just as though they were being controlled. We couldn't stand it any longer and told the police so that they could see for themselves.'

"Mr. Sanderson also went to a nearby Birds Eye Food factory and told night security staff, who watched one of the objects moving down the length of Lees Road.

"The watchman and factory staff were not the only people to see the mysterious objects. Mr. Alan Cash, of 6 Christowe Walk, Croxteth, with three friends, saw a strange light in the sky over East Lancashire Road, near Kirkby, about 11 p.m.

"During past weeks there have been numerous reports of unidentified flying objects sighted over the Merseyside area. Both the meteorological office at Liverpool Airport and Bidston Hill Observatory have received many calls from people claiming to have seen them.

"A police spokesman said that two men had been sent to the Lees Road area to investigate, and so far as they could make out, while members of the public had definitely seen something, it was probably nothing more than a collection of bright stars."

Two Golders Green UFOs

Mr. Paul C. W. Davies of 31 Oakwood Road, Golders Green, London, N.W.11, writes as follows:

"I would like to report a sighting of two unidentified flying objects, made by myself on the afternoon of September 18, 1964.

"About 2 p.m. I was walking near my home when I noticed a metallic looking object in the sky, about 40° above the northern horizon, shining in the sun and moving slowly from S.E. to N.W.

"It appeared roughly oblong in shape and a little larger than the type of high-flying 'planes which leave vapour trails. This object, however, left no trail. In all, I watched it for about 3 minutes.

"It was unlikely that the object was an aeroplane, and I continued to watch the sky. At about 2.55 p.m. I saw a similar object approximately in the direction from which the first had come, about 30° above the horizon. This object was certainly not a 'plane, for it appeared as a metallic globe, shining in the sun and very high in the sky. At first it seemed to be hovering, but I gradually detected an eastward drift.

"This object was also watched for about 3 minutes, and it dimmed before returning to its original brightness. After a while it gradually faded, and when a cloud passed in front of it, I was unable to locate it once the sky was clear again."

(*Acting Editor's note: What a pity Mr. Davies did not obtain corroboration of his sightings from other witnesses. Reports such as this, as they stand, are easy targets*

for detractors with their balloons, satellites and aircraft.)

Manchester disbeliever's testimony

We are indebted to Mr. John Peers, of Little Hulton, Walkden, Manchester, for sending us the following letter which appeared in the *Manchester Evening News & Chronicle* on September 17, 1964. It was from a lady who signed herself "Disbeliever":

"I have always firmly believed people who saw "flying saucers" were imagining things. Now I'm not so sure.

"On Monday afternoon my seven-year-old daughter, playing in the backyard, shouted: 'Mummy, come and see this funny thing in the sky.' Expecting to see an unusual type of 'plane I hurried outside. There it was—high in the sky—a round silver object flying in the direction of Belle Vue and definitely not a 'plane. I rushed inside to see the time—5.15 p.m. exactly. When I went outside again it was still there in the distance, travelling at great speed but noiselessly. Did anyone else see it, or are we—my little girl and I—two more with large imaginations?"

"PS.—Please don't print my name and address, as my husband thinks I'm a 'nut case' and I don't want my friends and neighbours to think the same!"

Mr. Peers tells us that his son, aged 19, saw, with other youngsters at 6.55 p.m. on September 16, a noiseless, pearly-white triangular object which travelled over Little Hulton in a northerly direction. The object moved in such a way that the "base" of the triangle was the *leading edge*, with the apex trailing. This was the *day following* "Disbeliever's" sighting.

Bletchley Mystery Objects

Unidentified Flying Objects have been active over Bletchley in recent weeks. The Northampton *Chronicle & Echo* on October 2 carried the following stories:

"Flying saucers over Bletchley—this is what several people in the town believe explains 'unidentified flying objects' seen in the area during the past two weeks.

"The first incident occurred when a group of four people in Whaddon-way saw a huge grey-white object flash over their heads, not too high up. It was not a 'plane, they said, and was too big for a falling star.

"Later, a woman in Whaddon-way saw an object rotating above her house. It took off in the direction of Stony Stratford, travelling very fast. However, the woman wants her name to be kept secret.

"There then followed a report from 12-year-old Martin Page, of 34 Albert Street, Bletchley, who claimed he saw something at 11.20 one night which kept him awake for a long time. 'It was oval shaped, spinning round and round, and it had black dots along the side,' said Martin, who added that he saw the object quite clearly. It was 'sort of luminous' but there were no lights showing from the silent craft. 'I think it was a flying saucer,' said Martin."

(Credit to Mr. Geoffrey P. Gayton)

Two sightings from *Flight International*

In the July 30 issue of *Flight International*, two readers wrote to the Editor to report mysteries in the sky. Their letters are reprinted below:

"SIR,—I was sitting in the park with some of my school friends on July 8 when one of them pointed out a minute circle, almost a pin-point of light. I did not see it immediately but this was because it was at such a height that it was difficult for one's eyes to focus on it.

"When first observed it was high in the east at an elevation of 45–50°. There was little cloud in the sky and it could be clearly seen moving in a WSW direction at unusually high speed. I say high speed but I could not judge its height accurately because of its lack of shape. An aircraft, even with the full light of the Sun upon it, has a definite shape, but the object was star-like, which led me to believe that it was a satellite. This idea was quickly dismissed when the object suddenly slowed speed and stopped. After what must have been half-a-minute to a minute, it started off in a new direction twoards the SW. A small detached piece of cumulus finally obscured it and although it could be seen through the wisps it did not emerge from behind the cloud.

"When the UFO disappeared at 3.39 p.m. BST, it was at an elevation of 70°. The total time it was under observation was about 4–5 min. The observation position was Rosedale Park, Hayes, Middlesex, at latitude 51° 30.3′ N, longitude 0° 25.05′ W.

"I would be interested to hear if anyone else has made a record of it.—W. A. Madge, 30 Mansfield Drive, Hayes, Middlesex.

"SIR,—At approximately 10.40 p.m. on Friday, July 10, my wife and two friends were driving towards my home when they saw two lights extremely bright and seemingly close together suspended in the sky in a southerly direction. Both lights were stationary—this was checked by slowing the car to almost a standstill—and one of the lights appeared to have a green glow coming from it. Then suddenly both lights merged into one. At this point the car arrived at our house and I was called to come out. One of my friends said, "Don't bother, it's only a star,' but as I am an air enthusiast I was curious to see what it was. When we went into the back garden the light was moving at a speed I cannot estimate, but it could certainly not have been less than 300 m.p.h. Houses hindered any fur-observation. At this point it was heading in approximately a north-westerly direction, its flight seeming very smooth and controlled. Immediately afterwards I rang the MoD(Air) and reported what we had seen, they told me that nobody else had reported anything unusual at that time.

"Now this is my point: surely if it had been a jet aircraft we would have heard some noise from the engines, that is supposing it was a P.1127 with a lighthouse suspended from underneath! Artificial satellites cannot stand stock still and then move at will. The point of writing is that I wondered if any other reader had seen this strange light. If any did, and they know what it was, could they kindly get in touch with me and perhaps this guessing game will then end once and for all?

"As an afterthought I must add that there wasn't a single star to be seen in the sky, but there were some patches of low cloud. Surely the radar at London Airport must have spotted and tracked the object, or objects. Maybe someone there could help me in my enquiries.—Reginald Smith, 64 Eastbrook Road, Blackheath, London, S.E.3.

(Credit to Mr. A. Haughey.)

WALES

Wrexham sighting

The *Wrexham Leader* on September 11 published the following accounts:

"Mrs. Daisy Gittens looked through her bedroom window early on Sunday morning and saw—what?

"Mrs. Gittens, of 3 Zion Cottages, Southsea, certainly does not know what the strange flashing red object moving slowly across the sky was. 'It wasn't an aeroplane,' she said on Tuesday. 'It wasn't making any noise, and it was moving slowly. It was about 100 feet above the ground,' she added. Mrs. Gittens was in bed when she first spotted the object. The sound of a 'bus coming back from Blackpool woke her up at 2.30 a.m. 'I looked out of the window and saw it,' she said. She got out of bed and watched the object for about five minutes until it disappeared over a bank in the direction of Brymbo Steelworks. But a spokesman for Brymbo Steelworks said that they had no reports of anyone from the works seeing anything that night.

"*Footnote:* At 11.30 on Saturday night an ex-nurse and her husband saw a strange object in the sky at Salford, Lancs. They described it as 'rather like a conical sea buoy. All round it were lights that changed from red to green to white.'

"A strange object has also been sighted in the sky near Welshpool." (Credit to Mr. A. I. H. Wade of Woodmansterne, Surrey.)

SOUTH AFRICA

Cigar over Kimberley

From the *Diamond Fields Advertiser*, June 23: "A Kimberly housewife, Mrs. S. Fraser of Ansley Road, West End, yesterday told of a strange flying object which hovered over her house for several seconds during the early hours of Saturday morning. Mrs. Fraser said she had just returned from taking her husband to work when she saw the object in the sky.

" 'I had parked the car and was going into the house when there was a flash of light, something like a searchlight, which seemed to focus on me from above,' she said. 'At first I thought it was lightning, and I looked up in the sky to see where it had come from.

" 'But, poised in the sky, was a long cigar-shaped object with a row of red lights. I watched it for several seconds before the lights went out and the object disappeared.'

"Mrs. Fraser said she had no explanation for the appearance of the strange object—'All I know is that it was nothing good,' she remarked."

AUSTRALIA

"Floodlit like a sportsground"

From the *Sydney Sun*, June 19: "A mysterious coloured light was seen in the sky over the South Australia-Victoria border early today. The object, which had a fiery tail, startled early morning workers over a wide area. All reports agreed the light lasted about two seconds.

"The object appeared to be travelling in a south-easterly direction toward Melbourne. A spokesman for the Baker-Nunn Camera Satellite Tracking Station at Island Lagoon, near Woomera, said no official sighting had been made.

"It was reported by a pilot flying at 25,000 feet and several people on the ground. Mr. Jack Gorman, of Casterton, about 50 miles from Kaniva, said he was awakened about 5 a.m.

"He said he looked out and saw the whole north-east of Casterton 'floodlit like a sports ground at night' for several seconds."

U.S.A.

Professor Charles Maney seeks UFO debate

From the Defiance, Ohio, *Crescent News* for August 1: "After reporting that Defiance residents recently sighted an 'unidentified flying object,' Prof. Charles A. Maney, 601 Washington Ave., today announced that he is once more seeking to debate on radio the subject of such phenomena.

"The newest sighting was on Monday, July 27, between 9.58 and 10.03 p.m. according to four Defiance residents who reported to Prof. Maney.

"The object was first noted by Michael Weigandt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weigandt, 1220 Magnolia Drive. It was moving northward across the western sky at a fair rate of speed. Michael was reported to have called his mother, who was visiting Mrs. Claude Allgire, 1208 Magnolia Drive, and Michael's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weigandt, and together, with Mrs. Allgire, they all observed the phenomenon, using low-powered binoculars.

"They reported it had the 'appearance of a ball with a pale blue flickering centre surrounded by a bright red ring.'

"After the UFO disappeared they notified Prof. Maney and Mr. Weigandt gave the following written account of the incident:

" 'At first observation my wife thought it was the Echo satellite and sent Michael into the house for me. As I stood facing NNW the object was moving from left to right and I also thought it was a satellite at some distance away. However, Mrs. Allgire provided a low-powered pair of binoculars, and sighting through these I saw the object was much nearer than suspected. Also, it had the appearance of a ball with a pale blue flickering centre surrounded by a bright red ring. All four witnesses viewed it through the binoculars and agreed with the above description except for the shape. Mrs. Allgire and Mrs. Weigandt feel it was slightly V-shaped. This may be due to a change in direction, as the object appeared to change its course to a more northerly direction at a much higher rate of speed and disappeared.

"Prof. Maney made no additional comment on the sighting by these four persons except to stress that they all observed it.

"He also disclosed his efforts to debate over Boston radio WEEI for a second time with Dr. Donald Menzel, director of the Harvard College observatory. They held a debate some time ago.

"Prof. Maney has collaborated in writing a book concerning UFO, and is a member of the board of the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomenon, Washington, D.C. No date for another radio debate has been agreed on as yet, it was explained."

More reports from Professor Maney

On August 13 the *Crescent News* returned to the subject of flying saucers, carrying the following report:

"Reports of unidentified flying objects—or 'flying saucers' if you

prefer—continue to be made by Prof. Charles A. Maney, Defiance, co-author of a book of UFO and a member of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, Washington, D.C.

"The latest report was passed on by him Wednesday after two young boys had told a friend, Robert Crossland, of witnessing a strange object Tuesday evening. The boys are John Dodson, 15, 723 Ottawa, and Frankie John Jiminez, 14, 740 Ottawa Ave., Defiance Junior High School pupils, who were taken to see Prof. Maney by Mrs. Crossland.

"The boys related that they were walking near the railroad tracks south of state route 281 between 5 and 6 p.m. Aug. 11 and were approaching the overpass beyond the General Motors foundry. The sky was overcast and relatively dark for that time of day. They related that Frankie suddenly saw a strange object in the sky, above the G.M. water tank. They said the object appeared to be about one-half the diameter of a full moon.

"It was dome-like with a flange base and was rotating slowly, it was reported. It was described as having lights arranged horizontally and bright enough to illuminate the area. It moved horizontally at moderate speed and then shot up vertically at greater speed and disappeared, the boys related. They said it gave off a 'high-pitched continuous whirling or hissing sound.' They described its colour as 'whitish'.

"After Prof. Maney had disclosed reports of other recent sightings he received letters from persons relating their experiences. He showed three letters as examples. They were from Mrs. Harry McElhatten, 108 W. Lynn St., Stryker; Mrs. Edward Heck, 631 E. Perry St., Paulding, and Mrs. Jack H. Edmonds, rt. 1., Wawaka, Ind.

"Mrs. McElhatten quoted from a letter she had received from a friend in Coeur d'Alene Idaho, who quoted from a Misoula, Mont., paper: 'Some people in Missoula have seen a saucer land on a hilly field behind their house. It was as big as a house, encircled by lights and occasionally directed a beam of light into their home. The oil furnace started up and the ranch animals ran wild and crazy. No one emerged from the ship which was large and shaped like a top.'

"Her letter stated that the Missoula Flight Service and the Federal Aviation Agency said none of its men had picked up anything on its electronic gear or huge radar unit.

"The letter from Idaho also stated that a space ship was reported to have landed several other times in the past three months and that the last time—three weeks ago—it was joined by four others.

"The Idaho letter writer also was reported to have written that the night before the item appeared in the Missoula paper a neighbour in Idaho had sighted the 'saucers'. Her letter stated that: 'Last night Ann got up to help Dougie who was having a nightmare. It was stuffy so she stepped out on the patio to get a fresh breath and saw a big top-shaped shining aluminum object about 200 feet altitude right over the river. It was all lit up around the edge.' She called her husband and they 'saw a second, a third and a fourth. They were flying east, real slow'.

"Mrs. Heck wrote Prof. Maney, after reading of a recent sighting, that she believes she saw it on July 17 and notified the night policeman. Mrs. Heck said it appeared 'above a neighbour's house about 40 rods south of us, and it travelled about 500 feet high, and it crossed over us in our yard'. She said it travelled north and disappeared.

"She said it was about six or seven inches around with a bright light and a beautiful tail of blue colour that was about three feet long. Mrs. Heck lives on U.S. route 127, just south of Paulding. She is 65 and her husband is 74.

"Mrs. Edmonds reported that she saw an object on July 31 but 'we did not tell anyone except grandmother and grandfather. We thought no one would believe it.'

"She reported that her boys, 8 and 10 years old, were in a tent in the yard that night on their farm, 10 miles west of Kendallville. She said the older boy awoke in the middle of the night and saw what he described as a 'big ball of fire like the sun flying very low right over our woods.' He then said he knew it wasn't the moon because it was bigger and moving. The boys said it moved around and finally downed near the woods and stopped and 'the burning fire went out'. She said he then could see a 'round thing'. The boys said the fire 'then came on again and it began to move'. The boys said they heard no noise and that they watched it for what seemed 'about half an hour'.

"Mrs. Edmonds said she questioned the boys separately and she felt sure of their stories and that they had not had a dream."

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Spindle-shaped images

Sir,—Spurious spindle-shaped photographic images like the one in the picture on page 3 of the September-October REVIEW are quite definitely caused by internal reflection in the camera lens. They are always on an axis which intersects the centre of the negative, and the light causing the reflection is found on the same axis at an equal distance on the other side of the centre. In the Woomera picture the sun, in the upper right quarter of the picture, has produced the ghostly disc in the lower left portion. There was an excellent example of the same type in an Edinburgh evening paper some two or three years ago, where a street lamp was clearly the cause.

This type of image is not the only one which occurs when lens reflections reach the negative—ghostly discs and ellipses are quite common. They may be seen in profusion on television when such events as the Farnborough Air Show are broadcast. This is not because UFOs favour the Air Show, but because pointing cameras at the sky near the sun, especially cameras with zoom lenses, is an excellent way of producing such images. An example of a ghostly disc in an *interior* picture can be found in the *Amateur Photographer*, 6th May 1964, on page 710.

The type of lens construction which is most prone to produce such effects is probably known to lens designers; the writer has not been able to identify it so far. The more complex the design, generally speaking, the more likely it is that such reflections will be produced.

Where a reputable witness declares that an object was seen in the sky when the photograph was taken, he would naturally assume that a lens reflection on the negative was the object he saw.

If anyone can find a photograph in which a spindle-shaped object of the kind under discussion is *not* situated symmetrically on a radius from the centre of the negative, the writer will be very interested.—W. J. MacLean, 6 Craigmount Grove North, Edinburgh 12.

Star-like objects

Sir,—With reference to "Croydon UFO" in the July-August "World Round-Up", I too have seen a bright star-like object on a NNE course, but for every evening during the past three weeks. The time of sighting has varied from dusk to 3 a.m. each night· I have accepted it as a satellite due to its regular appearances, but do satellites usually take approximately *five minutes* to travel from one horizon to the other, as this one does?—M. Lowe, 29 Nelson Road, Hornsey, London, N.8.

Sir,—Having just read the July-August issue of the REVIEW and in particular the "World Round-Up" feature where it is reported that bright star-like objects were seen over Croydon in April I have a list of sightings which I think might be of interest to you.

During the last three weeks my brother and I have observed no less than twenty of these bright star-like objects crossing over Finchley We have kept a record of times and dates of all the objects seen, and they are as follows:

Date	*Time*	*Direction*
July		
13	11.10 p.m.	S. to N.N.E.
14	10.42 p.m.	S. to N.N.E.
16	12.04 a m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
17	11.12 p.m.	S. to N.N.E.
18	10.42 p.m.	S. to N.N.E.
18	11.14 p.m.	N.W. to S.S.E.
19	12.05 a.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
24	11.42 p m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
25	11.19 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
27	12.18 a.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
28	10.46 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
28	11.50 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
29	12.27 a.m.	Stationary to North
29	12.46 a.m.	S.W. to E.
30	10.54 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
31	12.15 a.m.	S.W. to S.E.E.
Aug.		
3	11.00 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.
3	11.17 p.m.	S.W.W. to E.
4	10.07 p.m.	S.W. to E.
4	10.36 p.m.	S.W. to N.N.E.

All the objects listed in this letter varied in brightness from just under 1st magnitude to well over 1st magnitude (at times even brighter than the star Arcturus, magnitude 0.06). On average they took between 8 to 12 minutes to cross the sky from horizon to horizon, and at no time was any sound heard.—C. D. Bodimead, 22 Kitchener Road, East Finchley, London, N.2.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: *The two letters printed above are selected from a large number of similar reports reaching us from all over England, but predominantly from districts in North London, Mill Hill, Harrow and Watford. Before all these sightings are written off as satellites it should be pointed out that several of the reports include accounts of the objects remaining stationary for a considerable time, moving up and down and even reversing in their tracks. It should also be asked whether any satellite can be seen night after night over the same area for as many as three weeks at a stretch.*)

The Bermuda Triangle

Sir,—Referring to the article on the Bermuda Triangle in your July/August issue, I believe the list of disappearances is not complete. I can recall the mysterious loss of two British Avro Tudor airliners, I think round about 1948/1950, these were "Star Tiger" and "Star Ariel" and as far as I recall the mystery is still unsolved.

With reference to a tiger reported at East Runton on February 20 (Page 22), this report should be treated with reserve, as there is a small zoo on the Runton side of Cromer, situated near the same railway embankment probably within ½ mile of East Runton. I was at this zoo about 3 weeks ago, there were lions there then but no tiger.—R. J. Hartless, "Pelmont", 5 High View, Hitchin, Herts.

(*Yes. According to Harold T. Wilkins* (Flying saucers on the Moon *pp.* 140/141) *the "Tudor" type airliner "Star Tiger" of British South American Airways, carrying* 25 *passengers and crew of six, vanished* 400 *miles off Bermuda on* 30 *January*, 1948. *The court of enquiry was baffled and could only hint at "some external cause". The BSAA's second "Tudor" type machine, "Star Ariel", carrying* 13 *passengers and seven crew, disappeared equally mysteriously on* 18*th Jan.* 1949 200 *miles from Bermuda when flying to Jamaica. No wreckage or traces of any sort were found despite exhaustive search in both cases, but it is interesting to note that, on the first night of the search for the "Star Ariel", a U.S. bomber and a British machine of BOAC both reported having seen* a strange light on the Ocean *precisely in the area where "Star Ariel" had been lost. In addition to these two cases, Wilkins also mentions the losses of an American Superfortress bomber which vanished* 100 *miles off Bermuda in* 1947, *and of an American "Globemaster" that disappeared when flying the Atlantic to Ireland in March*, 1950. *Searches by many planes and ships failed to find traces or throw any light on either case. But there was vague theorizing by U.S. Air Force officers after both cases, about a "mysterious and tremendous current of rising air in a cumulo-nimbus cloud which had disintegrated the machines". Whatever the answer, be it Wilbert Smith's "areas of reduced binding" or a lurking UFO menace (in fact the Mantell type or the Coningsby "spindle" type of case), it seems that in all these occurrences we have a common pattern. There is urgent need for research here, because there have been many precisely similar disappearances in a Pacific Ocean area which seem to centre on or near Guam Island.* Is this in fact the second or "twin" area of reduced binding which Wilbert Smith tells us the Space entities assured him had been created by our nuclear bomb tests? *Or, more sinister still, could it be that the story about "areas of reduced binding" was just a nice tale told to Smith in order to head him off from realising that hostile entities are themselves responsible for the disasters?*— Editor.)

A message from Outer Space?

Sir,—With reference to the article under this title on page 23 of the May/June, 1964 issue of the REVIEW, I thought the following information might be of interest to you, and might be a contribution towards solving the problem.

I tried on several occasions to pick up this mysterious "message" on the wavelength indicated, but without success. Then, on 23rd August, when I was trying to find some programme of interest on the dial, I was startled to hear this same message coming through (at 7.45 p.m. here in Bordeaux) on 19.3 megacycles. The broadcast appeared to be identical with the text given by you (except that possibly the word "domanial" should read "domanic") and it lasted until 8.10 p.m., local time.

Ever since that date I have heard the message almost daily on the same wavelength, and several times each day, up till 9th September. On that day I could not find it on 19.3 MC, but searched and found it on 9.914 MC. These broadcasts are usually strong and clear, and are always interrupted by, or followed by, conversations in an unknown language between two or more persons, including women. These conversations start off with a signal similar to the ringing of a telephone. They continue for some time, and then the broadcast starts again. The unidentified language resembles Spanish, and the words "cosmos" and "telephonicos" are used. I have made recordings of it all, and shall be pleased to lend you my tape if you are interested (it is a spool for playing on a Philips No. EL 3300 machine).

From time to time I still switch on again at 19.3 MC, but so far without result.

I enclose a list showing dates, times, duration of listening, and remarks.

For personal reasons I request that, if you print this letter, you give only my initials and the name of the city where I live.— C.D., Bordeaux, France.

Date	*Time*	*Remarks*
Wavelength: 19.3 MC		
1964		
Aug.		
23	19.45–20.10	
25	11.55–12.25	
26	12.00–13.05	
27	08.00–08.02	
27	11.53–12.45	
28	09.20–09.40	
28	12.10–12.20	Talks start again at 12.42, stop again at 12.50 on apparent order from correspondent.
28	16.45–17.00	
28	19.10–19.52	Talking begins with singing.
29	07.45–07.55	Reception very bad.
29	08.35– ?	
Sept.		
4	11.53–12.55	Reception bad.
Wavelength 9.9 MC		
8	11.55– ?	
11	22.45– ?	Reception very bad.
12	09.10–11.30	
14	09.20–10.35	
14	22.05–22.30	
16	09.55– ?	Very weak. Much static.
18	00.10–00.15	
18	07.40–07.45	
20	09.20–12.40	Followed
21	09.25– ?	by lengthy
22	10.15– ?	conversations.
24	10.20– ?	

N.B. Almost invariably, the broadcasts have been interrupted by, or followed by, conversations, sometimes lengthy, sometimes limited to a few words.

(*Such words as "cosmos" and "telephonicos" sound as if they are obviously Greek. We suggest that Mr. Lowe and Mr. Wilfrid Daniels have their own recordings checked, and see if it is in fact Greek.*— Editor.)

The Planet Venus

Sir,—With reference to your article "Luton Revisited" (July/August, 1964 issue of REVIEW, page 28) and the Air Ministry's spokesman who stated that the mystery object flitting around over Luton on the night of 9th April was "the planet Venus, which does sometimes move in an extraordinary manner", I notice that this planet has been working overtime of late. For, when the three Littlehampton fishermen reported, early in August (see World Round-Up, this issue) that they had seen a silent red object hover over that town and then fly off up the River Arun at a height of about 200 ft. above the water, the Astronomer Royal himself, Sir Richard Woolley, called upon to give his verdict (*Brighton Argus*, 9th September) ruled that it was probably Venus.

I find however that not all eminent astronomers share this somewhat elastic view of Venus' capabilities. When the remarkable Air Ministry statement about the capers of Venus over Luton appeared, I at once wrote to that Ministry craving further details of this (presumably) newly discovered practice of our neighbour planet, and enquiring whether such dignitaries as the Astronomer Royal and Mr. Patrick Moore were already *au fait* with the situation? Failing to get from the Ministry any reply whatever to my very reasonable request, I then wrote off to Mr. Patrick Moore to ask what he felt about it, and I think his reply to me, dated 13th June, is worth placing on record: "So far as the Air Ministry's statements are concerned, I can only say that they confirm my low view of Ministries in general. Obviously they have deputed this sort of thing to a dim Civil Servant who doesn't know an asteroid from an adenoid. I can throw no extra light on it, except that anyone who thinks Venus capable of behaving like this has my sympathy!"
—Gordon Creighton, 16 Cedars Avenue, Rickmansworth, Herts.

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What the Soviet Press is Saying

IN the three months of June, July and August 1964 there have been four very important Soviet articles about Life in Space. All have been signed by top-flight Soviet astronomers and scientists, and the publications in which the articles appeared (*Ekonomicheskaya Gazeta*, *Izvestiya*, *Trud*, and *Komsomol'skaya Pravda*) have a total direct readership of probably as much as ten million. But before it is finished with, the average Russian newspaper is read by far more people than is the case here, so one can safely say that anywhere between thirty and fifty million people (i.e., one-quarter of the U.S.S.R.'s population) will have seen one or other of these articles.

The latest of the four articles was by the scientist V. I. Siforov, in *Komsomol'skaya Pravda* for August 15. The author is a member of that most august body, the Soviet Academy of Sciences. What he has to say is nothing new to readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW; he merely says that there are *unquestionably* innumerable highly advanced civilisations in the Universe, and that we shall inevitably soon be in touch with them for merely within the confines of our own Milky Way Galaxy there are estimated to be at least several hundreds of thousands of planets with conditions identical or very similar to those of our Earth, and revolving around stars of about the same age and size as our Sun.

He discusses the work now being done by the considerable number of radio-telescopes that in different parts of the world are already probing into Space. He mentions also the very great interest which Soviet scientists continue to take in Phobos and Deimos, especially the latter, which men as prominent as Professor Leonid Sedov (head of the whole Soviet Space Programme) and Professor I. S. Shklovskiy, of the Moscow State University, still think may be hollow, and consequently an artificial sputnik. In this connexion we should bear in mind the fact that when Mars comes close again next year the Soviets intend to send probes to take a good look at it, no doubt with a view to solving this particular enigma.

In the July-August 1961 number of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, and in subsequent issues, the view was expressed that although they would not yet admit the presence of UFOs in our skies, the authorities of the Soviet Union were quietly conducting a long-term programme aimed at preparing their public for the immense changes that are bound to result from contact with Extra-terrestrial Life. The present spate of Russian articles shows clearly enough that his policy continues. I. is true that there are some signs of the same sort of thing here. Recently, for example, one of our scientists told the British Association gathered in Southampton that "large bug-eyed monsters are now biologically acceptable", and another (Dr. M. A. Mercer, Lecturer in Physics at Southampton University) even went so far as to suggest that alien spaceprobes might already be operating in our atmosphere. But these are lone voices, and the sad truth still seems to be that the only Earth government that is attempting to educate its people in these matters is the tyrannical regime which has control of the Soviet Union.

G.W.C.

The Ion Engine

THE *Guardian* in its issue of July 21 carried the following news item from Wallops Island, Virginia:

"The United States today proved that the 'ion engine' —hailed as the best hope for high-speed travel in deep space—can work successfully in space.

"On an hour-long looping flight 2,500 miles up and 2,000 miles along the Atlantic range, an engine operate for half an hour, turning on and off several times.

"Carried into space on an ordinary four-stage chemical rocket, it operated by turning mercury into 'ions' of electrically charged particles, and emitting them at such high speed that in spite of their tiny mass they propelled the ion rocket in the opposite direction. An ion engine produces only a small amount of thrust when working perfectly but can be effective in deep space because the thrust is produced constantly over a long period, permitting gradual build-up of almost unlimited speeds.

" 'It was an extremely successful flight,' said Mr. Raymond Rulis, manager for the project. 'All our our technical objectives were achieved.' "

There are two interesting aspects to this announcement. The first is that George Adamski when in London last year predicted this development. Secondly, the new ion engine should enable us to break away, to some extent at least, from the clumsy and often impracticable rocket which has rendered our attempts at space travel rather pitiful in view of the effort and expense lavished upon the project. The world can now expect that the day of truth about flying saucers is therefore greatly advanced.

THE NEW ZEALAND "FLAP" OF 1909

It is highly important that saucer students should have at their disposal records of sightings that precede that of Kenneth Arnold in 1947 which made the term "flying saucer" widely known. It cannot be denied that in 1909 most of the present day rationalisations were not available and New Zealand was remote both in time and place from the latest developments of the great industrial powers situated in Europe or in America. This article is reproduced by kind permission of Mrs. Hinfelaar from their journal SPACEVIEW **(May-June issue) published from P.O. Box 21007, Henderson, New Zealand.**

THROUGH the excellent co-operation of a reporter on our main daily newspaper, we have been able to unearth a series of sighting reports that would make any sceptic think twice in regard to the existence of unidentified flying objects.

The period in which these sightings were recorded was devoid of any air traffic other than the earliest efforts of the Wright brothers and Count Zeppelin. The former made their first flight in 1903, while the latter launched his first dirigible in 1900. The second ship of this type was destroyed in 1905, during an emergency landing. Although airship traffic dates from 1909, and was later used for bombing purposes in World War I, none of these dirigibles are known to have visited New Zealand skies.

At any rate, the flying range of these craft was so restricted that they had difficulty in making the return flight from Germany to England. Moreover, these ships were cumbersome and their manoeuvrability was low.

Having regard to these facts, it was therefore startling, to say the least, when in the year 1909 cigar-shaped flying objects were reported all over New Zealand. The first of these sightings was observed in the last week of July, and the last sighting was reported in the first week of September. For a solid six weeks hundreds of eyewitnesses continued to report the presence of "phantom" airships in our skies. Sightings were not merely restricted to the craft themselves, but also included (in many cases) their occupants. Dozens of accounts were reported to the local newspapers and in all but a couple of cases the actual sightings could be corroborated by several witnesses.

As far as localities go, the objects were seen in the North as well as in the South Island, covering an area from Dargaville to Invercargill, a distance of approximately 850 miles. Sightings occurred during the day—as well as at night, and the most outstanding feature in nearly all reports was the description of the unidentified flying object. Never at any stage was more than one object sighted at the same time. The shape of the object was usually described as being elongated ("torpedo", "boat", "cigar" or "codfish").

In some cases, always at night, the objects carried strong searchlights (with reflectors) which lit up the landscape for miles. The speed of the craft was varied and ranged from a cruising speed of 30 m.p.h. to great velocity. Their passage through our skies was frequently described as the sailing of a boat (rather majestically) or as the rising and falling of a bird in flight. Some of the craft put on quite a display while dipping from 2,000 ft. to 1,000 ft. and circling around.

A cigar-shaped object

In one instance two local residents of Gore (South Island) reported having seen, at night, a boat-shaped object carrying two large fans and three lights—which at times were covered by the fans. Two other residents (dredge hands) in the same locality reported an object shaped like a boat with an open top that came down through the mist in the early morning. The dredge hands swear they could discern two figures on board the craft. A similar airship was seen by several school children at noon. They stated it had the figure of a man seated in it. The manager of a firm in Dargaville observed a cigar-shaped object which moved along the coast, five miles from the shore. He watched it for 15 minutes while it sailed on majestically.

Books of interest to Students of Flying Saucers

FLYING SAUCERS AND THE STRAIGHT LINE MYSTERY

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with an introduction by
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Although in one particular case the papers took great delight in reporting an obvious hoax, in all other cases ridicule and rigid cross-examination failed to shake the accounts as reported by hundreds of witnesses.

Curiously enough, during the beginning of the month of August, the planet Mars was approaching its closest proximity to Earth, and its unusual brilliance gave rise to several reports of mistaken identity.

Earlier in the year 1909, to be exact on May 18, at Caerphilly, Wales, a Cardiff man, named Lithbridge* was walking through the mountains when he came across a large cylindrical construction parked beside a lonely road. Inside it he saw two peculiar looking men, dressed in some kind of fur coats. On his approach they gabbled excitedly in a foreign language. The next minute the machine rose in the air and flew away. It had no wings and made little noise. A depression was found in the grass at the place he indicated. It was the first report in this century of a landed UFO.

There is no evidence to suggest that the year 1909 produced any UFO landings in New Zealand. To most witnesses the six weeks' flurry of sightings was, however, convincing enough to accept that intelligently controlled alien craft of an unknown identity had been visiting New Zealand skies.

The sighting flap ended as abruptly as it started. The last reported UFO sighting for the year is given here in full:

New Zealand Herald, September 10, 1909.

"The Airship mystery again cropped up at Gore about 4.30 p.m. on the 1st instant (says the *Dunedin Star*).——An object resembling an airship was seen manoeuvring in an undulating fashion in the direction of the Tapanui Hills and it gradually disappeared over the horizon towards Kelso. The gentlemen who reported the occurrence are two well-known residents of Gore, and their veracity is beyond question. They describe the object as of cigar shape, with a car attached to it, but they are unable to speak as to its occupants. They state that it was moving with great velocity. At first they believed it to be a balloon, but on closer vision they saw that it was of airship type. It remained in view for some minutes."

The Gore correspondent of the *Southland Times* telegraphed:—"The sensation caused in Gore by the reported sight of the airship on the 1st instant, has been greatly intensified by the appearance this afternoon of the mysterious object, it being seen by a considerable number of persons in different parts of the town. Whether it is an aeroplane or not, on the strength of what has been more or less widely seen, there is no doubt that there is something of singular shape and size in the sky. Between 5.45 p.m. and 6 p.m. it appeared in view, coming over the hills on the eastern side of the town Otaraia. It apparently sailed backwards and forwards at a great pace and, turning around, gradually disappeared over the same hills, although it was subsequently seen in the direction of Gore racecourse. The children of a prominent resident saw it, and stated that it was of cigar shape. They were so certain of it that they telephoned their father in his place of business to advise him to look out from his office at the object. The father, however, had just left the building. Reliable testimony to the sight is also born by a party of golfers who were on their way home from the golf links when they saw it. They include the two gentlemen who viewed it previously. One of the party, however, thought it was a large kite, but he was unable to account for its rapid movements and manoeuvres. The others are of decided opinion that it was an airship which met their gaze, and they describe it as resembling a large codfish, and plunging in its movements. Many other persons corroborate the latter description, and Gore is intensely excited."

[See *The Books of Charles Fort*, p. 631. The correct spelling of this witness's name is Lethbridge. For a further account of this contact see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, March-April, 1960, issue, p. 19.

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